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Daily Report
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FBIS-NES-95-103 *30 May 1995*

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Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat: Summit Suspended Pending Israeli Measures

JN2905141595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Yasir 'Arafat returned home at noon today following visits to Morocco, Algeria, and Egypt. [passage omitted]

After returning home, President 'Arafat stated that the Arab summit is still suspended pending Israeli measures and decisions on the expropriations in occupied Jerusalem.

President 'Arafat asserted that Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres once again pledged commitment to the set date of 1 July for the Israeli Army's redeployment, the transfer of powers to the National Authority, and the immediate holding of legislative elections.

Sha'th Doubts 2d Phase Possible by 1 Jul

LD2905204795 Hilversum Radio Netherlands in English 1430 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Palestinian chief negotiator Nabil Sha'th has said in the Netherlands that he does not expect implementation of the second phase of the Israeli-Palestinian autonomy agreement to begin as scheduled on 1 July. After talks in Morocco on Sunday, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat said that they were still sticking to 1 July as the date for implementation. But, according to Mr. Sha'th, who attended the talks, the negotiations between Israel and the PLO are progressing much too slowly for this, especially those on the security aspect of the Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank. Nabil Sha'th is a member of the Palestinian authority in Gaza, and he is considered to be the PLO's second in command.

'Abd-Rabbuh: Suspension of Peace Process Possible

NC2705135395 Paris AFP in English 1309 GMT 27 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, May 27 (AFP) — The PLO is to discuss the possibility of suspending its peace process with Israel at a forthcoming meeting of its executive committee in Tunis, a senior Palestinian official said Saturday [27 May].

"There will be a very important meeting of the Palestinian leadership next week to re-evaluate the whole peace process," said Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, a member of the PLO executive committee.

"It will also discuss the possibility of the suspension of the peace process if the Israeli government does not respect its own obligations."

'Abd-Rabbuh stressed that Israel had to meet a July 1 deadline for a decision on military redeployment and Palestinian elections in the West Bank.

"There is time if the Israeli side has the intention to reach an agreement," he said.

"I don't think the intention is there on the Israeli side, and we are in a crisis that could explode at the end of next month."

The PLO executive committee is to meet in early June in Tunis.

'Abd-Rabbuh's comments came amid Palestinian anger at Israeli delays in implementing the second phase of the autonomy deal it signed with Israel last May and scheduled to begin last summer.

Israel has delayed redeploying its troops away from Palestinian towns out of fear for the security of Jewish settlements in the West Bank.

The PLO has also been infuriated by Israeli plans to build Jewish homes on Arab land in a Jerusalem suburb confiscated in 1991 and the Jewish state's proposals to confiscate more Arab land in the eastern sector of the city, although these latest plans have now been frozen.

'Abd-Rabbuh said of the construction plans: "We think this is another round of confrontation which the Israeli government intends to launch against the Palestinian people and against the Declaration of Principles," which led to the autonomy agreement.

'Abd-Rabbuh, who is also "minister" of culture, spoke to reporters after a meeting of the Palestinian "cabinet."

'Abd-al-Shafi Urges Suspension of Peace Talks

TA2805110995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 28 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mahmud al-Zahhar, one of the leaders of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in the Gaza Strip, said that the answer to Zionism was to continue the jihad and intifadah in all the occupied territories. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the former head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks with Israel, said that for all intents and purposes there is no peace process between the two parties. 'Abd-al-Shafi called on 'Arafat to suspend the negotiations with Israel. This was reported by our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem.

PA To Launch 'New Battle' for W. Jerusalem Land

TA2805071495 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0400 GMT 28 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] It is Jerusalem Day, and Faysal al-Husayni chose this particular day to issue a decla-

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ration that will undoubtedly arouse the ire of many Israelis and perhaps even throw a monkey wrench into the negotiations between the Palestinians and Israel. The Palestinians, through Faysal al-Husayni, are now asserting that they will submit demands to Israel for the return of properties and land in West Jerusalem. They already have maps and lists. Al-Husayni mentions the Talbiya [Qomemiyyut] and Qatamon neighborhoods, among other areas. Our correspondent Golan Yokhpaz heard these remarks from Faysal al-Husayni yesterday.

[Begin recording] [Yokhpaz] Without taking any time off to recover from their extraordinary victory in effecting a freeze on land expropriations in Jerusalem, the Palestinians are already initiating a new battle over Jerusalem. Palestinian Authority [PA] officials are this morning openly launching a struggle for the recognition of Palestinian rights over buildings, houses, and land in the western part of the city, or in other words, inside the Green Line. Faysal al-Husayni, the PA official in charge of Jerusalem affairs, told IDF Radio that as far as the Palestinian leadership is concerned the two sides could not reach a political settlement without dealing with the Palestinians' demand for land in the western part of the city.

[Al-Husayni] If I want to achieve a solution, then both parties will have to make some concessions. I am referring now to East Jerusalem; however, I personally also own a great deal of land in West Jerusalem. How will we handle this matter? It will be dealt with in the negotiations.

[Yokhpaz] Al-Husayni said that most of the Palestinian properties and land are in Talbiya, which is near the center of the city and in south Jerusalem's Qatamon neighborhood. Al-Husayni, nevertheless, went on to assert that he has documents and maps that categorically prove Palestinian ownership of additional areas in West Jerusalem.

[Al-Husayni] I have rights inside Israel.

[Yokhpaz] Which you will demand?

[Al-Husayni] Of course I will demand them. Why not? The Israelis will demand their rights from my state, and I will demand my rights from Israel. Look, when we sit down at the negotiations table there will be maps. Each side will assert their rights vis-a- vis the other party, and we will start talking.

[Yokhpaz] Al-Husayni refused to say when the Palestinians would raise their demands for property and land in West Jerusalem. I will not discuss this at the present stage, he said.

[Al-Husayni] I prefer to negotiate with Israeli officials rather than IDF Radio.

[Yokhpaz] PA sources emphasize that this is not an attempt to capitalize on their success in forcing the Rabin government to freeze land expropriations in Jerusalem. The sources clarified that Palestinian residents have long been asserting their claim to land in the western part of the city. Faysal al-Husayni made it clear, however, that the Palestinian leadership had never actually presented such a demand within the framework of the political negotiations. Now, he says, the time for this finally appears to have arrived. [end recording]

Fatah Official on W. Bank Redeployment Agreement

TA2905063595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Samir Subayhat, a senior West Bank Fatah official, says Israel and the PLO are on the verge of agreement on the redeployment of Israeli troops. He says the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has already started planning to redeploy in a number of West Bank towns and has constructed a number of new observation points on the main roads.

According to Subayhat, the Israeli-appointed mayor of Janin, 'Abdallah Lahluh, has left the town to live in Israel and conducts his affairs by telephone. Israeli security officials confirmed threats had been made on the mayor's life.

Al-Husayni: 'Confiscation Decisions' Should Be Revoked

JN2605181895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Faysal al-Husayni, official in charge of the Jerusalem file at the National Authority has said that we should not be satisfied with the suspension of the confiscation on 53 hectares of land in the holy city and that Israel should cancel all confiscation decisions. Al-Husayni's remarks were made during a demonstration organized by citizens near the Sur Bahir village in Jerusalem today to protest the building of a new Jewish district on lands confiscated by the Israeli occupation authorities in 1991.

Also taking part in the demonstration were citizens from the village and representatives of political forces. The demonstrators performed the Friday prayer on the confiscated lands. The Friday sermon dealt with the ancient history of Jerusalem.

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Reiterates Stand on Jerusalem

JN2805202095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1930 GMT 28 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Faysal al-Husayni, official in charge of the Jerusalem file, has stated that Jerusalem is the historical, economic, regional, and religious capital of the Palestinian people.

At a students rally in the holy city today, Faysal al-Husayni said that Jerusalem is the key to both peace and war and any solution reached will ultimately be blocked by the issue of Jerusalem. The only solution is for it to be the capital of the Palestinian people.

Claims Title to 70% of West Jerusalem

TA2905093895 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1400 GMT 28 May 95

[Interview with Palestinian Authority official Faysal al-Husayni by Amnon Levi on the "'Erev Hadash" program on 28 May; place not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Levi] Good evening, Mr. al-Husayni.

[Al-Husayni] Good evening.

[Levi] What rights do you claim in the Qatamon and Talbiya [Qomemiyyut] neighborhoods?

[Al-Husayni] Look, we have a lot of land in western Jerusalem, as well as East Jerusalem.

[Levi] Can you estimate the size of the land?

[Al-Husayni] Not with accuracy.

[Levi] Approximately?

[Al-Husayni] Approximately 70 percent or more.

[Levi] Seventy percent of Talbiya and the Qatamons?

[Al-Husayni] Not only in Talbiya and Qatamons, also in Lifta [Me Neftoah], Dayr Yasin [Giv'at Sha'ul], and the entire area of western Jerusalem.

[Levi] Seventy percent of western Jerusalem belongs to your people?

[Al-Husayni] At least.

[Levi] Do you plan to claim it?

[Al-Husayni] Look, it had been decided that since this is such a complex and emotionally charged issue, it would be left for later, for a year later, but if Israel wants to open the issue now, we are ready to do it.

[Levi] Did you really mean the Palestinians would claim 70 percent in a year's time?

[Al-Husayni] If the Israeli side claims land in East Jerusalem, we will demand a right to land in western Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

[Levi] What is your vision of a united Jerusalem?

[Al-Husayni] It will be a united city if the Israeli capital has its buildings in the west and the Palestinian capital has its in the east, and yet the city will remain open for Palestinians wishing to visit the Israeli side, and vice versa.

Adviser Stresses Jerusalem Capital of Independent State

JN2805153595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, commenting on statements made by Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin, said that President Yasir 'Arafat visited Morocco at the invitation of King Hassan II as part of Morocco's efforts to speed up the peace process. He added that the Arab summit remains suspended and has not been canceled or replaced by any other meeting.

He also said that the Palestinian side was still urging Israel to cancel all its measures in Jerusalem and to implement all Palestinian-Israeli agreements in letter and spirit. He stressed that Arab Jerusalem would remain the capital of an independent Palestinian state, that the Jerusalem issue is no longer a Palestinian-Arab-Israeli one, and that it has become a red line for any movement or solution to the region's conflict.

Envoy Praises Arab Unity on Jerusalem Issue

NC2605185495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ambassador Muhammad Subayh, Palestine's permanent representative to the Arab League, has praised the recent great political movement by the Arab countries and the Palestinians, Muslims, and Christians. He said that this made Israel agree for the first time to freeze expropriations of land in Jerusalem.

In an interview with Egyptian Television this evening Ambassador Muhammad Subayh clarified that the freeze is a way to save face. It was difficult for Israel to make this decision in view of the contest for power in Israel.

He said that the freeze was a concession to the United States, which vetoed the Security Council resolution condemning Israel's expropriation of land in Jerusalem. This resolution was approved by 14 countries.

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Subayh asserted that the United States is always weak in dealing with Israel, particularly with the upcoming U.S. elections, in which the Middle East is being made an election issue.

The Palestinian representative to the Arab League said that the call for and readiness to convene an Arab summit is what protected the peace process.

He warned that Israel will continue trying to Judaize Jerusalem, in implementation of what Herzel said before the state of Israel was created when he said that every Muslim and Christian will be kicked out of Jerusalem. Subayh stressed that the united Arab stance must continue and the residents of Jerusalem must be supported as much as possible.

Ministry Marks Jerusalem Annexation Anniversary

JN2805171095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Culture and Information Ministry has issued a statement on the anniversary of Israel's annexation of the occupied city of Jerusalem. The statement says that neither peace nor stability will prevail unless Jerusalem returns to full Palestinian sovereignty.

The statement adds that Israeli celebrations on this occasion are provocative and mean that the Israeli Government is still using every means to change the identity of Arab Islamic Jerusalem and to eradicate its residents.

The statement also says that Israel will be making a big mistake if it believes for one moment that the PLO and the National Authority will give in to the fait accompli.

Differences Delay Opening of Rafah Terminal

TA2905162195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The opening of a special terminal at Rafah for the transfer of goods between Egypt and the autonomy has been delayed. The opening was scheduled for today, but it is being held up by differences between Israel and the Palestinians. Israel has opposed the Palestinians' request that one of their own security officers be present during security checks at the site.

Opposition Factions' Damascus Meeting Termed 'Failure'

JN2905180095 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 29 May 95 p 1

[Report by 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Nashash in Damascus]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Basam al-Shak'ah has voiced his dismay at the positions of the Palestinian opposition factions, which led to their failure, thus far, to pool national Palestinian efforts to stand up to the dangers currently facing the Palestine question. He elaborated on the details of the preparation for and establishment of the Palestinian Grouping [PG] inside the occupied territories. He noted that most of the Palestinian factions have failed to honor their pledges to pool national opposition efforts inside [the occupied territories]. He noted that none of the representatives of these factions has contacted him since his return from Damascus where he had earlier met with Palestinian factions' leaders last summer. Al-Shak'ah said that he was contacted only by the Islamic Jihad Movement representative.

Al-Shak'ah says: "For this reason, the proclamation of the PG was postponed for a few months. The political statement that was issued by the PG aroused great media interest because Palestinians inside [the occupied territories] suffer from a political vacuum given the absence of a unified organizational framework joining opponents of the Oslo agreement."

Al-Shak'ah noted that he met with Muhammad Nazzal and Ibrahim Ghawshah, who are Hamas leaders, and agreed with them on the need to continue dialogue on the PG after his return from Damascus.

Al-Shak'ah made these remarks at the beginning of the expanded meeting that was held between him and representatives of the ten Palestinian factions in Damascus on Tuesday morning [23 May]. The 6-hour meeting was attended by representatives of the ten Palestinian factions. Leaders of these factions attended the meeting, including: Ahmad Jibril; Nayif Hawatimah; 'Isam al-Qadhi; Abu-Musa [Sa'id Muragha]; Abu-'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri]; Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi; 'Azmi 'Awwad; Khalid 'Abd-al-Majid; 'Ali 'Aziz; Abu-Muhammad Mustafa, Hamas representative in Damascus; and Khalid al-Fahum. The conferees discussed the means of crystallizing a collective and clear stance vis-a-vis the PG.

A responsible source who took part in the meeting told AL-MAJD that the conferees failed to reach an agreement on a number of major topics. He said there were conflicting positions on these points and thus no agreement regarding them was reached. [passage omitted]

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At any rate, al-Shak'ah's extended meeting with the leaders of the ten Palestinian factions failed to achieve any results for two reasons: First, the absence of Hamas leaders, and, second, the lack of agreement on the controversial issues that were debated. This prompted al-Shak'ah to resume his dialogue with Hamas leaders after his return to Amman from Damascus. Subsequently, the conferees formed a committee comprised of Fathi al-Shaqaqi, Abu-Khalid al-'Amlah, 'Umar al-Shihabi, and Abu-Muhammad Mustafa to re-draft the PG's political paper to be swiftly presented for discussion by leaders of the ten Palestinian factions and al-Shak'ah.

In general, the expanded meeting was marred by altercations and heated arguments among the conferees. Most prominent of these arguments was one between Ahmad Jibril and Abu-Muhammad Mustafa. Mustafa was infuriated when Jibril said that Hamas wants to make gains all the time without coordinating with its allies. Another such argument took place between al-'Amlah and Hawatimah. Al-'Amlah stressed the importance of reaching an agreement on the political basis before any participation in the PG, while Hawatimah called for observing al-Shak'ah's situation and the need for his return to the occupied territories with their full confidence.

Two Hamas Suspects Detained at Israel's Request

TA3005081095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 30 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At the request of Israel, the Palestinian security service in Gaza detained two Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] suspects who were involved in the murder of Israelis. The two had previously been detained, but were later released. The two are Usamah Abu-Tahah and Yusuf Malihi. Abu-Tahah is suspected of the murder of an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officer, Gay 'Ovadya; Malihi is suspected of murdering two elevator company workers in Ramla. They were detained again after Israel protested to the Palestinian Authority and 'Arafat personally intervened in the issue.

Hamas Official on Suspects, PA Role

NC2905194495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 May 95

[Telephone interview with Abu-Hamdan, representative of the Islamic Resistance Movement in Tehran, by 'Isam Hasan, in Tehran; date not given; from the "News and Reports" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Hasan] Mr. Abu-Hamdan, there is a news report that the Oslo authorities in Gaza and Jericho [Palestinian Authority, PA] have handed over two Palestinians to the Zionists. What is your comment on this?

[Abu-Hamdan] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Let us say that this is the first time such a hand over has been made public. It does not mean that this is actually the first hand over. There is information that the autonomy authority handed over to the Zionist security authorities brother mujahid Nidal Dababish, who was [words indistinct] in the house where Kamal Kuhayl was martyred.

We believe this is a serious precedent, especially since the two wanted persons who were handed over are accused by the Zionist entity of committing a paramilitary act—namely, seizing the weapon of a Zionist soldier in Jerusalem.

This proves what we had said earlier, namely, that the secret part of the autonomy agreements explicitly states that the autonomy authority should serve as a tool of the Zionist entity in arresting and pursuing mujahidin and in confiscating the resistance's weapons, which are directed at the Zionist entity. If this serious precedent passes easily without the wise men—either those who are still blind to the reality of the Palestinian Authority or those who still believe that these agreements may do good things for the Palestinian people and their cause or for the region as a whole—these people must beware that this precedent is a clear sign and a living example of what is expected to happen if the others join the peace caravan. In this case, all will be slaves to the Zionist master, as it says in the Torah, in which those Jews believe, or the Talmud, in which the Jews say that all nations were created to serve this chosen people.

We stress that this issue must not be shrugged off but that it should be viewed gravely. All parties should expect to be just as enslaved by the Zionist entity if they insist on following this regional scheme led by the Zionists.

Hamas Leader al-Zahhar Remarks on Jerusalem Issue

TA2605153195 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 25 May 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, QUDS PRESS — Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader in the Gaza Strip, described Israel's decision to freeze the confiscation of Arab lands in Jerusalem as "a political maneuver that seeks to stave off the fall of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's government and calm the Arab states that are trying to normalize relations with the Hebrew state."

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Al-Zahhar noted that "Israel managed to create a new reality in Jerusalem by planting 20 Jewish towns and neighborhoods around and in it. Consequently, the freeze has no practical value whatsoever if it is compared with the reality that has been imposed by Israel." Al-Zahhar stressed, however, that "the Arab states' posture gave the impression that the Arab stance is still pulsating despite the weakness in the veins of the Arab nation, which is almost dying because of its dependency on the West."

Al-Zahhar called on the Arab countries to escalate their protests in order to completely cancel the Israeli decision and stop world derision of the Arabs, especially by the United States.

Dr. al-Zahhar criticized the Arab summit's suspension. He emphasized "that at this stage one should insist on an Arab stance toward Israeli policy and against U.S. interests in the region, because the United States used the veto in the UN Security Council."

Poll Shows Fatah With Most Popular Support

NC2605193595 London MBC Television in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] An opinion poll held by the MBC Television Center in Gaza and the West Bank has shown that the Fatah Movement still commands the most popular support among the Palestinians of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. All those polled were unanimous on the importance of the Jerusalem issue. Here are the details from Nabil al-Khatib:

[Al-Khatib] Eighteen months after the signing of the Oslo agreement in Washington, only 22.5 percent of the Palestinians feel familiar with this agreement. As for the Cairo agreement that led to the establishment of the Palestinian Authority [PA] in Gaza and Jericho one year ago, only 19 percent say they know its details. [passage omitted]

Regarding the future, the poll shows that 21.7 percent said they are very optimistic, while more than 50 per cent said they are cautiously optimistic. The poll gives the impression that the Palestinians do not have a uniform view on political developments. This might be due to the transitional stage but, at the same time, they regard the PA a positive thing: 39.6 percent said the PA was a positive thing compared to 39.9 percent who said self-rule is not a sufficient step and 16.2 percent who said that self-rule has done nothing to advance Palestinian rights.

The Palestinians have now lived the new experience for one year, during which obstacles facing the PA have increased, according to the following attitudes:

Forty percent say the economy, unemployment, and the donor countries' policies are the main problem facing the PA;

ten percent say that the occupation practices and the settlements are to blame;

less than one percent say that the problem lies in administrative corruption.

This year was full of dramatic changes in the Palestinians' lives, but it has apparently not changed the Palestinian balance of power much. The Fatah Movement continues to be the organization with the most popular support: 37.7 percent expressed support for it compared to 15.3 percent for Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. The leftist opposition's support has declined while the independents maintain 17 percent of the support. [passage omitted]

The Jerusalem issue was the only one that enjoyed a consensus. The poll shows that 97.9 percent regard this issue as primary. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] PA member Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, who is currently visiting London, said that figures and polls usually change according to the situation. He told MBC that Fatah's popular support is much more than what the poll shows.

[Begin recording] ['Urayqat] Other polls are being conducted in all the Palestinian areas and the figures differ between polls held in the same week. Some figures give President 'Arafat 54 percent, others give him 70, 40, 43, or 47 percent. But I believe that the samples used in some polls do not reflect realities. The Palestinian people are composed of a number of groups or political movements. Polls rely on the conditions prevailing when they are conducted.

[Nicole Tannuri] But Fatah still remains the leading group compared to the other ones?

['Urayqat] It is well known that it is the leading one, but I believe that its support exceeds the stated figure, that is, Fatah has more than 39 percent support.

[Tannuri] President 'Arafat said that 1 July is election day. On what does he base this, since there are still many pending issues, such as the participation of the Jerusalem Arabs and the nominations?

['Urayqat] The second part of the agreement involving redeployment, the elections, the transfer of authority, and the passing of laws was supposed to have been implemented in July 1994. We are now 10 months behind. I believe that this responds to those who accuse the PA of being the Israelis' enforcer. From the time it was established to date, the PA has been fiercely

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engaging in self-defense against the incessant Israeli onslaught on all aspects of life. The Gaza and Jericho agreement was not designed to [words indistinct]. I believe that if Israel does not respect the July date, then there will be nothing to talk about. [end recording]

Arab-Israeli Talks

Peres, 'Arafat Meet in Morocco for Talks

Syrian-Israeli Agreement on Agenda

LD2705095795 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 27 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] According to observers, it is probable that the policy of confiscating Palestinian land in East Jerusalem, and the agreement reached yesterday between Syria and Israel on starting negotiations on the security arrangements in the Golan Heights will occupy an important position in the talks between Peres and 'Arafat today.

Peres on Resumption of Peace Impetus

TA2705162995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 27 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who is in Rabat, Morocco, said that his talks with King Hassan and 'Arafat are aimed at denoting the resumption of the peace impetus on all tracks.

Minister Peres told our political correspondent Shlomo Raz that the very fact that the meeting is taking place today is the innovation of the Casablanca atmosphere, or in other words, coordinated regional activity. The foreign minister sees great symbolism in the fact that the trilateral meeting with King Hassan and 'Arafat is taking place in Morocco, where the Arab League summit meeting had been due to take place at this time in the wake of the Jerusalem land seizure affair, which has since been canceled.

Israel takes the Rabat meeting seriously due to King Hassan's special status in the region and in the peace process. The Palestinians expect Minister Peres to bring to the meeting new ways to implement the second stage of the Oslo accord.

King Hassan To Use Influence on Ties

TA2705174995 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 27 May 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Morocco's King Hassan will use his influence on the Gulf states to form diplomatic relations with Israel. He might also arrange a meeting between Prime Minister Rabin and Gulf leaders, our political correspondent has learned from Moroccan sources who followed Foreign Minister Peres' meetings in Morocco over the past two days.

Officials Comment on Rabat Talks

NC2805055395 Paris AFP in English 2115 GMT 27 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Rabat, May 27 (AFP)—PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat arrived here Saturday [27 May] for talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Moroccan King Hassan II aimed at breathing life into negotiations on Palestinian self-rule.

As the clock ticks toward a July 1 target date for agreement on the extension of autonomy on the West Bank, the meeting was to be the second between Peres and 'Arafat in five days and was only announced late Friday.

Officials in Rabat said the tripartite talks could be a "marathon" session and would examine in detail the situation in Jerusalem and the occupied territories. They had been prepared over several days by all three sides.

'Arafat, accompanied by his spokesman Marwan Kanafani, made no comment ahead of the talks which were due to start around 2100 GMT at the royal palace. He was greeted on arrival by Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali.

Peres met Morocco's King Hassan II late Friday for "cordial, warm and serious" talks, the head of the Israeli liaison bureau in Rabat, David Dadoon, told AFP.

The two men discussed ways of giving the lumbering peace process a "new boost," he said.

Kanafani said earlier as he set off from Gaza City with 'Arafat that the Rabat talks would deal with the peace process in general, and the current standstill.

"Things are not moving at all, we are talking with Israel but the problem is we are just talking," he said.

"Time is passing and we have a date to meet on July 1," said Kanafani, referring to a target date set by both sides to reach agreement on an Israeli army redeployment on the occupied West Bank and on self-rule elections.

Also in Gaza City, a senior Palestinian official said the PLO was to discuss the possibility of suspending the peace process at an upcoming meeting of its executive committee in Tunis.

"There will be a very important meeting of the Palestinian leadership next week to re-evaluate the whole peace process," said Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, a member of the executive committee.

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"It will also discuss the possibility of the suspension of the peace process if the Israeli government does not respect its own obligations." [passage omitted]

King Hassan, 'Arafat, Peres Discuss Peace

JN2805065695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 28 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, Moroccan King Hassan II, and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres have held a long working session. Discussions centered on the Middle East peace process and the Israeli decision to suspend the confiscation of Palestinian lands in Jerusalem.

King Hassan II last night met with President Yasir 'Arafat and Peres separately.

The three-way meeting comes shortly after the postponement of the Arab mini-summit which was scheduled to be held at the end of this month.

In the same context, a Palestinian source has said that the Moroccan king, who is president of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Jerusalem Committee, will try to secure Israeli assurances that the decision to confiscate Palestinian lands will be cancelled.

King Hassan II had earlier addressed messages to Yitzhaq Rabin, Bill Clinton, and Boris Yeltsin. In his message to Rabin, he said: No electoral concerns whatsoever justify the confiscation of Palestinian lands. He considered the confiscation of lands a serious and unacceptable development.

'Arafat, Peres Issue Statement

JN2805204695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1930 GMT 28 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A joint statement was issued in Rabat today following the conclusion of the Palestinian-Israeli talks between President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres — which were held under the patronage of King Hassan II of Morocco. In the statement, the Palestinian and Israeli parties underlined their determination to achieve an agreement on the implementation of the second phase of the Declaration of Principles Agreement which concerns the redeployment of the Israeli occupation army in the West Bank, elections, and the transfer of the remaining powers to the National Authority before 1 July this year.

The statement notes the obstacles that faced the peace process and the need to negotiate to arrive at the final phase of a permanent and established peace.

The statement stresses the need to develop economic cooperation between the Palestinians, the Israelis, and other states and the need to facilitate the movement of persons and goods from Gaza and the West Bank to Egypt, Jordan, and Israel.

In the statement, President 'Arafat, King Hassan II of Morocco, and the Israeli foreign minister hailed the economic conference that was held in Casablanca in October 1994 and stressed the need to follow up and implement the decisions endorsed by that conference. They also stressed the need to ensure the success of the forthcoming economic conference in Amman in October this year and the Europe- Mediterranean conference, scheduled to be held in Barcelona in November this year.

President 'Arafat and the Israeli foreign minister extended thanks to King Hassan II of Morocco for providing them with the opportunity to meet in Morocco and for his keen support for the peace process.

'Arafat-Peres Joint Communique

LD2805223195 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 28 May 95

[Joint communique of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres signed in Rabat on 28 May — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinians and Israelis, conscious of the prime role of His Majesty King Hassan II in the peace process in general and in the negotiations between the Palestinians and the Israelis in particular, considered opportune and important in the current phase of the process that Yasir 'Arafat and Shim'on Peres consulted His Majesty King Hassan II and met under his aegis to examine and ponder the means that might give new momentum to the peace process and work to implement as soon as possible their agreements in Oslo, Washington, and Cairo.

Among the points that were raised at this meeting:

1. The lessons that should be drawn from the recent setbacks and difficulties facing the peace process and the need to find efficient means for securing the progress of the peace process, to avoid everything which might jeopardize it, and to negotiate with good intention in order to reach the final stages of a lasting and comprehensive peace.

2. The development of economic cooperation between the Palestinians, Israelis, and other countries warrants a freer movement of goods and persons between Gaza and the West Bank; between them and Israel, Egypt, Jordan, and other countries; and a need to guarantee security measures to all parties.

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3. The need to allow the Palestinian economy to participate in economic cooperation with Mediterranean countries as a partner.

His Majesty King Hassan II, Yasir 'Arafat, and Shim'on Peres consider that the Casablanca economic summit conference, held in October 1994, opened a new economic era and raised the hope and optimism of the peoples of the region, particularly the population of Palestine.

They are convinced that this momentum must be maintained through the reactivation of the decisions enshrined in the Casablanca Declaration to ensure the success of the second summit meeting, due to take place in Amman at the end of October, and the Euro-Mediterranean conference, due to take place in Barcelona in November.

The Israelis and Palestinians reiterated their determination to reach an agreement on the second phase, including the redeployment of the army, the transfer of powers, security arrangements, elections, and other points stipulated in the accords of Oslo, Washington, and Cairo before 1 July.

Yasir 'Arafat and Shim'on Peres thank His Majesty King Hassan II for giving them the opportunity to meet in Morocco, his warm hospitality, and his tireless efforts over the years for the sake of peace.

'Arafat Praises Outcome of Meeting

LD2805231095 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 28 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Palestinian president, Yasir 'Arafat, left Morocco this afternoon after making a press statement in which he praised the outcome of the meeting of Rabat and the efforts of his majesty the king:

[Begin 'Arafat recording] Firstly, I would like to thank, from the bottom of my heart, His Majesty King Hassan II for his support for us, which is usually expected of him. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Replying to a question on whether the issue of Jerusalem was discussed at yesterday's talks, Mr. Yasir 'Arafat said:

[Begin 'Arafat recording] Yes, there is no doubt about that. As I have already said, we discussed with frankness at yesterday's meeting all problems; we listened to their opinion. I would like to insist here on the need for Israel to keep its commitment [not to confiscate more Arab land]. I have called our peace the peace of the brave; therefore, I understand the Israelis' need for security. However, I would like them also to understand our need for security and for elections, because the latter means stability, economy, and other things.

Finally, I would like to seize this opportunity to thank the Royal Air Maroc on the occasion of our agreement with it to furnish us with the necessary help to implement the first phase of setting up [our own] airline company. I would like to remind here that [word indistinct] has been helping us to train our cadres and that he will be doing more for us, thanks to his majesty's instructions. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Israeli-'Arafat Meetings Scheduled for Jun

TA2905113795 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 29 May 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by Moti Bassok]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In their meeting in Morocco last Saturday [27 May], Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Palestinian Authority leader Yasir 'Arafat agreed that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin or Foreign Minister Peres would hold three to four summit meetings in June to discuss the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment and the elections in the territories, so as to enable the sides to meet the target date of 1 July set for the signing of the agreement on the implementation of next stage of the autonomy.

The meetings at the highest political level are designed to bridge over the outstanding gaps on complicated issues that the interim levels will not be able to solve. [passage omitted]

Palestinian-Israeli Talks on Power Transfer Held

JN2905192395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on the transfer of eight powers to the Palestinian National Authority began in Cairo this evening.

The Palestinian side is led by Jamil al-Tarifi, minister of civil affairs, while the Israeli side is led by General (Oren) Shahor, coordinator of the Israeli activities.

Hasan 'Asfur, member of the Palestinian delegation to these negotiations, said the talks will be on the transfer of powers that deal with local authorities, census, labor, agriculture, post, trade and industry, insurance, gasoline and gas.

'Asfur added that there are a huge number of files that should be discussed, but he emphasized that it is the first time the talks have dealt with the stage that will follow the redeployment of the Israeli occupation army outside the populated areas.

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He said the previous talks were held within the framework of the Israeli presence, while the current round of talks will discuss ways of transferring powers after the National Authority assumes responsibility for the affairs of the West Bank.

The Palestinian and Israeli sides will resume their negotiations in Tel Aviv next Wednesday on the redeployment of the Israeli occupation army and holding elections for the National Authority council, which was due to be held in July 1994.

Second Round Talks Held

NC3005095195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0902 GMT 30 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 30 May (MENA)—The second round of Palestinian-Israeli talks to transfer further civilian and administrative powers in the West Bank to the Palestinian National Authority was resumed in Cairo this morning.

Jamil al-Tarifi is leading the Palestinian side while the Israeli side is led by Aaron Shahor, head of civilian administration in the occupied territories.

Palestinian delegation sources said the first session, which was held last night, focused on the progress of negotiations during this round, which will continue until Wednesday evening.

So far, the Israeli side has transferred powers to the Palestinian Self-Rule Authority in the fields of taxation, social affairs, tourism, health, and education. The transfer of the remaining civilian powers is scheduled to be completed before 1 July. This is the date agreed upon to begin the second phase of the transitional agreement of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles and to hold Palestinian elections.

Peres: No Wish To Keep 'Syrian' Golan Heights

TA2805051595 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 May 95 p 8

[Report by Shim'on Schiffer in Rabat]

[FBIS Translated Text] "The decision to attain a peace agreement with Syria follows a moral decision we have made. We do not wish to keep holding on to Syrian land. The Golan Heights is Syrian land, and we are sitting on the Syrians' land." These remarks were made by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to Moroccan King Hassan V in a meeting the two held alone in the king's palace in Rabat over the weekend.

Minister Peres told the YEDI'OT AHARONOT reporter in Rabat about the conversation. "I told the king that our decision to make peace with our neighbors — the Jordanians, the Palestinians, and the Syrians — emerges from a moral, not just a political, decision. We do not want to be a nation that rules another; we do not want to sit on lands that are not ours," Peres said.

Peres said that the king had asked him whether all Israelis share his view, or whether he is in the minority. Peres told King Hassan that he believes that the decisive majority of Israelis feel the way he does, with one difference: The Israelis ask themselves whether the Arabs, the Palestinians, can be trusted. These questions come up because the Arab world is still hostile to Israel: the Arab League acts against us, the economic boycott continues, and so does terror, Peres told Hassan. Peres urged the king to take steps to improve the atmosphere in Israeli-Arab relations.

The king also asked Peres how the Israeli public will stomach the agreement with Syria. Peres replied that if the Syrians make quick and serious progress in the negotiations, there is a good chance that the Israelis would vote for the agreement.

Peres told Hassan that the main problem in the negotiations with the Syrians is that the Israeli decisionmakers find it hard to see the immediate gain of the peace accord with Syria. "Historically, we are gaining, but we might be losing politically because we will see the fruits of the peace only in the future, while we are forced to pay the price right now."

Peres Denies Golan Heights Statement

TA2805054995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 28 May 95

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, in Rabat, by Karmit Gay, in Jerusalem — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Gay] Good morning to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Rabat.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Gay] I understand that it is not really morning for you since you have been working continuously since yesterday without taking any time off for sleep.

[Peres] Since early this morning.

[Gay] Since we have very little time, I would like to discuss the bare outlines of several issues.

[Peres] If you do not have time, then the whole interview serves no purpose.

[Gay] We nevertheless seek a clarification of a report published by Shim'on Schiffer, YEDI'OT AHARONOT's correspondent in Morocco, in which he claimed that you had told the Moroccan king that

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the Golan Heights is Syrian land which Israel has no desire to occupy.

[Peres] No, I did not tell the Moroccan king any such thing. During an interview with me, and not during my meeting with the Moroccan king, Mr. Schiffer noted that I had said that Israel has to make a moral choice and that we have no desire to dominate another people. Then he asked about the Golan Heights, and I said that it had never been part of Eretz Yisra'el. This, however, never came up in my meeting with the Moroccan king.

[Gay] What about Prime Minister Rabin's remarks on 26 May with regard to the possibility of....

[Peres, interrupting] If you wanted an answer on that you should not have called Rabat. What we accomplished here was the resumption of comprehensive diplomatic activity. We wish to renew the momentum of the Middle East peace process in all spheres. As you know, a convention of an entirely different nature and mainly directed against Israel was slated to be held here. Instead, we witness the renewal of the Casablanca spirit and profound dialogue. One should not seize on minor details. The fact is that we received an extremely warm welcome from the Moroccan king. I met King Hassan in private, and we were later joined by Yasir 'Arafat for several hours. We discussed all the issues. King Hassan is one of the people leading the peace process. We also discussed bilateral issues with Morocco, such as establishing air links, resuming cooperation, and hosting Moroccan students in Israel. I think we made progress in three fields: One, the revival of the atmosphere of dialogue and cooperation throughout the entire Middle East. I consider this another qualitative step forward in our relations with Morocco. This is also the way I view the king's involvement and attempts to understand and influence all the parties — meaning Israel and the Palestinians — to expedite the process, find solutions and so forth. The atmosphere was distinctly friendly all the time.

[Gay] You met with Yasir 'Arafat last night. Did you make any progress on the continued implementation of the Oslo agreement?

[Peres] The intention was mainly to include the Moroccan king in our very complex negotiations with 'Arafat prior to the implementation of the second stage. The joint communique published by King Hassan, Yasir 'Arafat, and myself also calls for regional cooperation. It is actually an attempt to enlist the entire region's help in resolving the Palestinian problem. Our dialogue continued with respect to improving the atmosphere and discussing several concrete new ideas that I am certain will be implemented.

[Gay] For example?

[Peres] The construction of joint factories, Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli cooperation backed by U.S. aid and regional support — rather interesting ideas.

[Gay] King Hassan is the chairman of the Arab League's Jerusalem Committee. Today is Jerusalem Day in Israel. In light of the recent furor surrounding Jerusalem, the land expropriations, and so forth, what can you tell us on this issue.

[Peres] The king may be the chairman of the Jerusalem Committee, but he is also a very intelligent and experienced man. I know that he understands that Jerusalem must be handled like very delicate and ancient glass. One must take great care not to crack or break it. He is the last person in the world to employ demagogic language and would never do such a thing. The king wanted to sweep away the shadows of the past for good. He was very careful and responsible in his statements and agreed that the issue of Jerusalem should only be discussed in the negotiations over the permanent settlement.

[Gay] Thank you, Foreign Minister Peres in Rabat.

Israeli Security Demands, Syrian Responses Detailed

TA2605143395 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 26 May 95 p 2

[Report by Ron Ben-Yishay]

[FBIS Translated Text] The worst threat nightmare to Israel's existence is Syrian armored divisions suddenly emerging from their camps deep on the Golan Heights, positioning themselves several hours later on the edges of the cliff, and sliding down from there to the Jordan Rift Valley and Lake Tiberias. Israel wants to prevent this nightmare from happening by presenting the following demands to Syria:

— A demilitarized strip: Based on the model of the Sinai security arrangements, Israel suggests that the Golan Heights, almost all the way to Damascus, be almost fully demilitarized. The Syrians will be allowed to station only police forces armed with light equipment in the demilitarized strip of some 40 to 60 km from the international border.

— "A thinning-out strip:" The Syrians will be allowed to station a relatively small ground division in this strip. The number of the tanks, armored vehicles, and guns it will contain will be determined in advance and set at a scope sufficient for the defense of Damascus, but not for an attack on Israel. The rest of the Syrian Army will be stationed at a distance of at least 100 km from the Golan

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Heights. On its part, Israel is willing to demilitarize only a narrow strip in the Jordan Rift Valley, maintaining that a Golan evacuation will tip the balance of power against it.

— Early warning: Israel wants to have an early warning of Syrian preparations for any type of attack, including a ground forces attack; preparations for the launch of surface-to-surface missiles; and takeoffs of attack aircraft planes, or airborne commando units in helicopters. Today, Israel can detect almost every movement on the Syrian side with its warning stations on Mount Hermon and several promontories on the Golan Heights. Israel, therefore, demands that these stations stay in place at least until it becomes apparent that peace is real and stable. Israel also suggests that technological means be placed at the gates of Syrian armored corps bases which will provide an early warning of any movement of armored forces. In return, Israel is offering the Syrians their own intelligence warning station on one of the Galilee mountain tops.

— A withdrawal that lasts five years at least: This, in order to examine Syria's intentions before the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is fully removed from the Golan Heights, and to provide the IDF enough time to redeploy and build new fortifications.

— Confidence building measures, including joint patrols; a "hot" telephone line between the General Staff Headquarters in Damascus and Tel Aviv; advance coordination of military exercises and maneuvers; an exchange of military observers; and placing a means to prevent flare-ups.

— U.S. supervision: Based on the Sinai model, Israel demands that U.S. military men and reconnaissance and photographic aircraft supervise the observation of the agreements and report violations on both sides.

The Syrians rejected almost all of these demands, and presented their own. They claim that if they accept the Israeli demands regarding the depth of demilitarization and thinning out of forces, Damascus would remain defenseless and exposed to Israeli attacks. Following the U.S. bridging offer, the Syrians stepped down from their demand that both sides demilitarize an equal amount of territory, assuming that Israel too will not continue demanding a demilitarization extending that deep into Syrian territory.

Al-Asad has absolutely rejected the demand that Israel place warning stations on the area it leaves on the Golan, but it appears that he agrees to having Americans man the Mt. Hermon station. Al-Asad has already agreed to the principle of a phased withdrawal, but is willing to accept an Israeli withdrawal that would last 12 to 18 months, and not five years as Israel is demanding. He totally rejects the demand that the size of the Syrian Army be reduced. Hence, even if the officers resume their talks, a lot of work and quite a few crises are still awaiting them.

Al-Asad Rejects Proposal on Early-Warning Station

TA2905102995 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 29 May 95 p 3

[Report by Washington correspondent Avino'am Bar-Yosef, Shefi Gabay, and Alex Fishman]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad turned down an Israeli proposal to set up a Syrian early-warning station in Zefat in exchange for Israel's continuing its presence in the early-warning station on Mount Hermon.

Senior sources in Washington last night confirmed that the Israeli proposal to set up an early-warning station either in Zefat or on Mount Meron had been raised in the first briefing session former Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq held with Syrian Ambassador Walid al-Mu'allim before the meeting of the Israeli and Syrian chiefs of staff in Washington last December.

Political sources in Jerusalem pointed out that in the meeting with Syrian Chief of Staff Hikmat al-Shihabi, Baraq reviewed Israel's perception of the security components in a peace arrangement with Syria, putting the stress on "confidence-building measures" between the two armies.

Baraq put forth the notion of joint use of the early-warning stations, similar to the interim arrangement with the Egyptians. He said that the principle of reciprocity could be upheld by the presence in the stations of technicians and experts of a third side — the Americans. The sources noted that the Syrian chief of staff chose not to comment on Baraq's ideas.

Al-Asad explained his opposition to the establishment of the Syrian early-warning station by saying that "Syrian monitoring in Zefat is less crucial than my opposition to an Israeli presence on Mount Hermon." According to al-Asad, the continuation of any Israeli presence whatsoever on the Golan Heights would hurt Syria's sovereignty. Consequently, he will not agree to any compromise. Nevertheless, Israel may once again raise the idea in the officers' talks slated to begin in early July in Washington.

The details about the Israeli proposal to set up a Syrian early-warning station in Zefat were reported by the Arab daily AL-HAYAH, quoting a senior Syrian source, who went on to say that the idea was part of the security

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arrangements pertaining to early warning in the event of a sudden attack by either side. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 29 May publishes on page A3 a report by Aluf Ben which adds: "A military source said yesterday that one of the first issues to be raised by the Israeli delegation of officers in the talks with the Syrians will be a proposal to conduct joint patrols along the current border on the Golan Heights twice a week as a confidence-building measure. Another proposal will be to install a 'hot line' between the two sides to enable speedy contact in the event of an incident near the border."]

Talks Reported Between al-Asad's Nephew, Israelis

TA2805181895 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 28 May 95

[Studio discussion between anchor Hayim Yavin and political correspondent Gadi Sukenik; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Yavin] President al-Asad's nephew is conducting talks with Israelis with the knowledge of his uncle and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik is in the studio. Gadi, there is a feeling that we might be facing a surprise and that after that there will be a national referendum. What are the facts about these secret talks?

[Sukenik] Al-Asad's brother Rif'at has a son called Faris, who is about 30 years old, is considered serious, and termed a businessman, like the rest of the family. Faris al-Asad apparently met with Israeli figures, whom we will not identify but will call businessmen and academics. He met them on several occasions over a period of several years and under the auspices of European mediators. Most of the meetings took place over the past two or three years in London. At least one meeting took place in the Paris apartment of (Falak Talas-'Uja), the daughter of Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas. She is the widow of a Saudi millionaire. The mediator was apparently former French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, who was her lover. Foreign Minister Peres on 10 January, 1995, secretly visited her apartment as a gesture of appreciation for hosting the Israeli-Faris al-Asad meetings. These are the basic facts we know. If you ask whether they discussed withdrawal plans...

[Yavin, interrupting] No, but I thought about the Dayan-al-Tuhami meetings [which led to the 1979 Israeli-Egyptian peace agreement]. What are they discussing?

[Sukenik] The very fact that al-Asad, who is a suspicious person and denies secret contacts, authorized the meetings is interesting. Israel says we want secret contacts, but that the Syrians refuse. People who attended the meetings told me that they exchanged views and ideas and wrote papers, but not official documents, and that afterward both sides updated their leaders. The meetings were held periodically. There is therefore a great deal of curiosity since the meetings had official authorization. My sources tell me that Yosi Beilin was in the picture and might have been the official to whom those who attended the meetings reported, which he will no doubt deny if we reach him in Venice, Italy.

[Yavin] Are these confidence-building moves?

[Sukenik] They definitely indicate curiosity, feelers, and a readiness to meet at a very senior level. There is no doubt that when a member of the Syrian president's family meets with Israelis he has the permission of President al-Asad. The information is passed on to both sides and provides material for ideas.

A report in today's AL-AHRAM, quoted by the opposition, which said unnamed Israelis and Syrians in Paris drafted a memorandum on an initial withdrawal early next year and an Israeli-Syrian summit meeting was totally denied by those who attended the Paris meetings. They said no official document was drafted, that information and impressions were exchanged to permit continued negotiations and perhaps to dispel suspicions.

Rabin Calls Report on Meeting 'Baseless'

TA2905052495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says the report broadcast on Israel Television last night that he knew about meetings between Israeli officials and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's nephew is totally baseless. Rabin's media adviser 'Aliza Goren said Rabin knows nothing of any such meetings and never received any briefings on them. Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin also denied that such meetings took place.

The daughter of Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas, Falak 'Awja, who lives in Paris, has denied that she hosted meetings between Israeli officials and President al-Asad's nephew. In an interview with a Qol Yisra'el reporter, 'Awja did not rule out that talks are taking place at another venue and are likely to produce positive results.

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Algeria

Foreign Ministry Condemns Death of Bosnian Minister

LD2905000195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 28 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] The spokesman for the Algerian Foreign Ministry said in a statement that the Algerian Government had learned with deep sorrow about the tragic death of the Bosnian foreign minister whose helicopter was shot down today over the enclave of Bihac. The spokesman stressed that the death of Mr. Irfan Ljubijankic required the international community, once again, to shoulder its responsibilities in the face of the tragedy experienced by the Bosnian people, victims of an ethnic-cleansing policy. The spokesman reiterated Algeria's full solidarity with the people and government of Bosnia and its adherence to the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Bosnia. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Arrives, Discusses 'Latest Developments'

LD2805200895 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Head of State Liamine Zeroual conferred at his office today with President Yasir 'Arafat. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri and Zeroual's diplomatic adviser and official spokesman, Mihoub Mihoubi. It was also attended on the Palestinian side by Mr. Nabil Abu Dina, adviser for information affairs and the ambassador of the State of Palestine in Algiers.

At the meeting, President 'Arafat briefed the head of state on the latest developments in the Palestinian cause, particularly the situation in the occupied territories and the outcome of the tripartite meeting that took place in Rabat.

At the meeting, Head of State Liamine Zeroual reiterated Algeria's firm support for the Palestinian people's just cause and [its struggle] to regain all its legitimate and inalienable rights. He also pointed out that Algeria indicated its readiness to accept King Hassan's invitation to attend the summit which was planned for 17 May [to examine Israel's confiscation of Arab land] as token for its solidarity, and reminded him of Algeria's call for Israel to cancel its illegal and unacceptable decision to alter the status of holy Jerusalem, an act that could jeopardize the peace process in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

After the meeting, the Palestinian president gave the following statement to our correspondent, Nassima Kirat:

[Begin 'Arafat recording] It is always a pleasure to come here and visit my Algerian brethren and brief them on the latest developments on the Palestinian track, particularly the latest developments surrounding Jerusalem. [passage omitted] [end recording]

President Yasir 'Arafat arrived here today from Rabat. He was greeted upon arrival at Houari Boumedienne Airport by Mokdad Sifi, the head of government; Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri; and the Palestinian ambassador in Algiers.

Sifi: International Observers To Attend Elections

LD2605124795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] After three days of proceedings, the meetings between the government and the governors of all the provinces in the country ended yesterday evening [25 May]. [passage omitted]

In this regard, the prime minister said:

[Begin Sifi recording] Regarding preparations for elections, we have concluded from the various interventions of the governors and ministers that these preparations for presidential elections... [pauses] and we remind you that these elections constitute a decisive stage in the country's political life, the most important stage in getting out of the crisis.

According to observers and according to your interventions, these preparations are proceeding normally and the necessary conditions for holding the elections are proceeding under the normal circumstances that prevail.

We have also observed, bearing in mind that there is never anything that does not have shortcomings, that the circumstances in a number of municipalities in some provinces require additional measures in order to provide the same circumstances as those in other municipalities, the same circumstances necessary for these elections to be held in security and freedom. These circumstances must be available throughout the whole country.

We have agreed to organize a new meeting with all the governors that will essentially be dedicated to the subject of the elections. I have said that these elections are a decisive stage, an important stage, and although procedures are going ahead as they should, we must make sure that they are proceeding properly. So we are planning a future meeting with the governors regarding the elections in which we will touch on more details than we did this time. [end recording]

In the same speech, the prime minister confirmed that international observers will monitor the elections, with-

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out indicating how many. He added that the question was still at the discussion stage.

[Begin Sifi recording] Within the framework of preparations for the elections, we should not forget that international observers will be present. At the moment we do not have details, as we have not gotten to them yet, but maybe in some provinces or all the provinces — we will see — there will be visits for this international observers mission and we must prepare to receive them. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Reservists To Help Preparations

LD2905134995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Some reservists, i.e., conscripts who did their national service in the years 1988, 1989, 1990 and 1991, will be drafted as of 1 June to help prepare the appropriate conditions for holding the presidential elections in an atmosphere of security and assurance, enabling citizens to carry out their voting duty and to freely express their opinion away from pressure or threats.

According to a presidential edict published in the last issue of the official gazette, the reservists concerned will enjoy the same salary as their professional soldier colleagues. [passage omitted]

FIS's Haddam Denies Security Force Successes

MM2905122595 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 26 May 95 p 6

[Report by Kamal al-Tawil: "Haddam tells AL-HAYAH: No Elections in These Circumstances"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — Anouar Haddam, head of the Parliamentary Mission of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] abroad, said yesterday that, in his view, there can be no Algerian elections in the current circumstances. In an interview with AL-HAYAH he admitted that the security forces were in control of the major cities but denied that they were in control of rural areas. EL REBAT bulletin, usually reflecting the views of FIS leadership in Europe (headed by Shaykh Rabeh Kebir), said in reaction to reports about the security forces' successes against the armed Islamic groups that the groups were, for the time being, unable to settle the battle, but that time was in their favor.

In the meantime, EL TABSERAH bulletin, which is published in Britain and carries statements and information about FIS without necessarily expressing FIS views, has continued its campaign against some of the views attributed to the Armed Islamic Group [GIA]. In its latest edition it called on Shaykh Mohamed El Said, without naming him, to return to the ranks of FIS, having pledged allegiance to the former amir of the GIA in 1994. It said: "We address an appeal to that shaykh who split from FIS to join a group (GIA).... We urge him to return to his senses and to his group." It asked: "How can he justify being with those who do not stop attacking the FIS day and night?" It said that some of the GIA's "theoreticians" abroad "had gotten it involved in actions" that were incorrect.

In a telephone interview Haddam was asked about the claims that the security forces were scoring successes against the groups. He replied: "All that talk is inaccurate. What is happening is exactly the opposite. There is no truth in the claim that they (the Algerian regime) are in control of the situation. The evidence is what happened when the mujahidin seized the television station in the west of the country and what happened in Ghardaia when on 10 May they attacked strategic installations. If they are in control of the situation, why are they extending the curfew and arming the militias, and why these reports about calling up reservists?"

In reply to the claim that those latter were called up to control the situation during the elections, he said: "Does that mean that the elections should be conducted by force? Do they want to intimidate people into taking part in the elections? Usually a civilian, not military, organ supervises the elections."

When told that more than one party has confirmed advances by the security forces, he replied: "It is not true that they control the situation. The truth is that the jihad has spread to all the national territory. There are vast areas not under the control of the special security forces, which perhaps only control the major cities and provincial headquarters. They are not in control of the rural areas, and I do not believe that the special forces even contemplate the risk of going there."

He accused the Algerian regime of "trying to internationalize the crisis." To substantiate that, he referred to "Algeria's request for Western aid and NATO aid to contain the fundamentalists, meaning the FIS." He mentioned the arrest campaigns in France targeting FIS supporters and members, and the arrest in Belgium of Shaykh Ahmed El Zawi (one of the FIS members elected in the elections which were later canceled). He criticized the "West's behavior in acting as just a spectator in relation to the human rights violations in Algeria." He found it strange that official communiques always spoke of gunmen "killed," not wounded or detained. He concluded that behind that lay "liquidation" operations by the authorities.

Haddam added: "Some people have been confused about our position toward the military establishment

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and thought that we viewed all its members equally, but the truth is that we believe five or seven generals are responsible for the current tragedy because of the coup which occurred in 1992. All we ask of the military establishment is to get rid of them and accept, as a basis, the national convenant" reached in Rome.

Asked which generals he meant, be replied: "We do not want to discuss names. Perhaps some are retiring." Asked if President Liamine Zeroual was one of them, he replied: "It has been said that he did not participate in the coup. If that is the case, why does he reject the Rome conference and a return to the people's choice (in the legislative elections of December 1991)? We have no objection to sitting down with him, if he so agrees, and negotiating on the basis of the Rome conference."

Referring to the message addressed by Shaykh Abbassi Madani and Shaykh Ali Belhadj to President Zeroual requesting consultation with the FIS political and military leaderships, he said: "And we have sought permission to meet with the two shaykhs but our request was rejected."

On what he thought of the current preparations for the elections, Haddam said: "Elections cannot possibly be held in these circumstances. The solution should be a political one in the context of the Rome conference principles. We are willing to hear other principles which we might have overlooked at the conference, but the national convenant is the basis and it provides for many things including respect for the people's choice, pluralism, rotation of power, respect of freedoms. We believe that elections, which are basically a political process, cannot take place."

EL REBAT bulletin, which is close to the FIS, commenting on reports about Algerian security forces' advances against the armed groups, emphasized that the security forces were unable to settle the battle in the past three-and-a-half years and will not be able to do so in the future.

The bulletin, which usually expresses the views of FIS officials in Europe (headed by Shaykh Rabeh Kebir), said that the Algerian authorities "cannot settle the problem by military means despite their numbers and equipment. They could not finish off the jihad when it first started. Now that the jihad has spread and gotten stronger, they will not be able to settle the situation against it." It added: "Although the jihad resistance will not, in our view, be able to settle the battle militarily now, the indications are that it will be able to do so in the future, for numerous reasons." It listed among these reasons "the fact that the conflict in Algeria is between the people... and a political and military mafia," and that "the jihad relies on a broad popular base of support and of material and human resources." It warned against the Algerian military establishment's "escalatory statements" which it said appeared in the latest edition of the "Army" magazine. It said that continuation of that policy by the Algerian authorities would "double the number of victims and waste the opportunity for constructive dialogue in search of a just, peaceful, and lasting solution" to the crisis.

Car-Bomb Said Cause of Explosion in Algiers

LD2605184295 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement issued by the Security Services said that the blast which destroyed the west facade of a building in the Bachdjarah quarter in the capital last night was caused by an explosion of a booby-trapped car in which a bomb was hidden inside a Peugeot 404.

The statement said that 37 people were injured as a result of the explosion, including three who are under medical supervision.

Bombs Destroy Post, Telecommunications Center

LD2805154495 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 28 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Algeria, the post and telecommunications center of Ain-Nadja, in the southern suburb of Algiers, was destroyed by two bombs during the night of 26 and 27 May, according to the daily L'OPINION.

Security Services Kill 29 'Terrorists'

LD2705222795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 27 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement, the Security Services today announced that their forces managed to eliminate 29 terrorists in Bouira, Jijel, Blida, Boumerdes, M'sila, Algiers, and Batna. The Security Services also managed at these operations to recover an important quantity of arms from the terrorists.

Radio Reports Journalist Killed

LD2805093595 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 28 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A journalist on national television named Hmaizi Mourad was assassinated last night at 2200 [local time] at a crossroads in Semnmar in east Algiers. He was shot dead by an armed terrorist group. Hmaizi Mourad, who was 30 years old, was killed as he was getting out of the vehicle belonging to the television and radio establishment near his house.

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Egypt

Musa Regrets Bosnian Minister's Death, Urges Action

NC2805185795 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 28 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has expressed his extreme sorrow at the death of the Bosnian foreign minister, whom he described as a staunch struggler and one of the few diplomats who combined struggle with diplomacy. He added that the death of the Bosnian foreign minister shows the seriousness of the situation, the need for UN intervention, and the need for the Europeans to immediately intervene militarily to prevent further deterioration there and to protect the civilians in Bosnia.

Says'More Effective' Use of Force Needed

NC2805150495 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today underlined Egypt's condemnation of the recent Serbian attacks against UN troops in Bosnia as well as against civilians of the Bosnian Republic. Commenting on the recent developments in Bosnia, the foreign minister called for a more effective use of force against the Serbs to stop their attacks against civilians and UN troops.

Musa noted that the recent Serbian aggressions and the Serbs' use of UN personnel as human shields show the Serbs' violation of all rules of international law and principles of human rights. The foreign minister added that this situation requires that we back the continuation of the UN role. It also requires that the UN troops in Bosnia be able to defend themselves and to deter the Serbian attacks.

Commenting on Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah's visit to Egypt, which will begin tomorrow, the foreign minister said that the visit provides an appropriate opportunity for President Husni Mubarak and the Kuwaiti amir to discuss the situation in the Gulf, bilateral relations, and mutual cooperation.

'Decisive, Collective' Position Against Serbs Urged

NC3005072595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 30 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 30 May (MENA) — AL-AHRAM and AL-AKHBAR newspapers urge a decisive, collective international position against the Serbs, who are using UN soldiers as human shields to ward off new raids on their positions by NATO planes.

In its editorial today, AL-AHRAM says the negative position by the United Nations and the big powers is the main reason for the deteriorating situation. On this, it refers to the United States' refusal to back up the international forces and its failure to help them, in addition to its occasional maneuvers on lifting the arms embargo on the Bosnian Government and then backing down on the idea.

The paper emphasizes the need for an urgent move to stop the war and finalize a new truce, and then impose the partition plan devised by the World Contact Group. Any delay in such a move, it adds, will pave the way for an explosion in the Balkans.

AL-AKHBAR says that the refusal of the international community, led by the highest organization that bears responsibility for world peace and security, to carry out its duty to the full extent is what led the Serbs to continue their brutal crimes .

The paper adds that the United Nations is today reaping the fruit of its reluctance and failure and its continued tolerance of a belligerent policy that the Serbs have been using for years and which has gradually developed into a flagrant defiance of the United Nations. Its forces have now become a target for killing and detention.

Concluding its editorial, AL-AKHBAR urges a policy of deterrence by force, the only policy that the Serbs know. It warns that any retreat this time will result in consequences more serious than those responsible for world peace and security would expect.

Mubarak Interviewed on Jerusalem, Other Issues

NC2805175195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hamburg, 28 May (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak has affirmed that achieving a just peace in the Middle East will not only be in the interest of the region but also in the interest of the entire world. He pointed out that if peace is not based on justice, it will collapse and fall to pieces. President Mubarak emphasized that Jerusalem is not of interest to the Palestinians or Israelis alone, but to millions of Christians and Muslims all over the world.

In an interview with the German magazine DER SPIEGEL, President Mubarak noted that he repeatedly cautioned Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin that Jerusalem is a sensitive matter that influences public opinion in the Arab world. He added that saying over and over again that a unified Jerusalem will be Israel's eternal capital is one of their election tactics. This slogan is meant to elicit the feelings of voters to win their votes he added, noting that this slogan has a negative

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impact on public opinion in the Islamic world and is embarrassing to officials in these countries. He pointed out that under the Oslo Agreement, Jerusalem is to be the final issue to be discussed with the Palestinians. By then, the Palestinians will have regained their land and an effective and capable Palestinian government will have been formed, he added. In light of these developments, it will be easier for us to sit down and resolve the Jerusalem issue.

President Mubarak emphasized that Israel must not seize any territory from the Palestinians or others, and that the Oslo agreement signed by the Israelis and Palestinians must be implemented strictly and without any delays or alterations. He added that if Israel wants peace, it must act like it. Otherwise, all the efforts in Oslo and Madrid will have been in vain.

In the interview, President Mubarak discussed Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's situation. He noted that the opponents of the peace agreements 'Arafat signed with the Israelis believe that Israel has not honored any of the articles in these agreements. It has not withdrawn its troops from the Palestinian territories; it has not yet allowed elections to be held; and the money 'Arafat was promised for reconstruction has not started to flow. In addition, there is severe pressure on 'Arafat from the people around him, who believe that Israel does not really want peace, and this could have in serious repercussions, he added.

Asked by DER SPIEGEL what advice he would give President 'Arafat, President Mubarak asked: In that case, shall I advise him to abandon his territory and abandon Jerusalem? He added: I cannot but accept whatever logic and justice dictate.

Asked about the desire of the Republicans in Washington to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, President Mubarak said: Even though I realize that this is an election tactic, I warn the United States that such an action would have the effect of an exploding bomb and the world will experience a wave of extremism from every quarter.

Asked if Egypt intends to join the nuclear arms race, President Mubarak said: We want a Middle East free of nuclear weapons, but at the same time we cannot remain silent and watch a country 40 km away from our borders monopolize atomic weapons. He added: If we cannot eliminate these weapons from our world, we will enter an arms race whether we want to or not.

President Mubarak expressed hopes that the EU countries and Germany would increase their aid to the Palestinians so that their living conditions will improve and unemployment drop, adding that this would be the best weapon against extremism. President Mubarak reiterated that we must all proceed along the path of peace and that countries that obstruct peace must realize that they are playing a dangerous game. He added: If we leave the road of peace we will find ourselves on a rough road that may be more dangerous than the period that preceded the peace era.

Musa Discusses Summit, Israel, Other Issues

JN2805115095 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1940 GMT 27 May 95

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by radio correspondent Faridah al-Shubashi; place and date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Shubashi] Your Excellency Mr. Minister, how are relations with France following the election of Jacques Chirac as president of the republic?

[Musa] Relations with France have been and will continue to be good and healthy. There are political consultations and economic and cultural cooperation. Relations are in their best shape.

[Al-Shubashi] Your Excellency, French newspapers have published reports citing informed circles to the effect that Egypt and the Arabs in general pin great hopes now after the ascension of a Gaullist to power, especially in light of the disappointment in the Arab world in the wake of the U.S. veto at the Security Council on Jerusalem. Do you expect France and Europe to play a more positive and active role in the Middle East vis-a-vis the peace process?

[Musa] We welcome such a role. In fact, we call for an active and effective European role in the peace process and in the Middle East developments.

[Al-Shubashi] Your Excellency, the Arab summit was postponed a few minutes after Israel's announcement of its going back on its decision to expropriate Jerusalem lands. Arab, and probably world, public opinion was surprised at the speedy postponement of the summit. How do you explain this?

[Musa] This issue does not need much explanation. The summit is really needed not only to deal with the issue of Jerusalem, but also to tackle the Arab situation and to discuss the problems that are facing the region. All of us here agree on this. The summit was called to deal with unilateral Israeli steps in Jerusalem. The summit has a political message. Israel began to take unilateral measures vis-a-vis a serious issue like Jerusalem. All the Arabs and the entire international legitimacy stand against unilateral Israeli measures in Jerusalem. The

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message was: No, you have trespassed all lines and we will meet to discuss the issue of Jerusalem and other issues within the framework of the general peaceful progress, as well as to save this progress. Israel went back on its decision. After consultations, it was decided to give Israel a chance to see what will come out from this positive decision and to see if this will benefit the entire peace process. However, this does not prevent us from saying that the summit is now on the Arab agenda and that the summit is possible within a short time. In the future — and it is not necessarily the far future — we might convene this summit. This is an Arab issue. The summit might convene regardless of the issue which requires its convening. The summit might convene in light of the peace process, the Israeli measures, the Palestinian reaction, and what happened on the Syrian track. Do not rule out the convening of the summit, not necessarily in the current stage.

[Al-Shubashi] Your Excellency, the Israeli foreign minister said that Egypt, or Arabs in general, should not resort to the Arab League or the Security Council to obtain anything from Israel. He said that negotiations should be direct. Does this mean that any Arab move to convene an Arab summit will lead to further aggravate relations with Israel?

[Musa] Convening the Arab summit is an Arab affair and an Arab decision. Reactions from this party or that is their own business. When the summit is convened, it will address specific issues which the leaders believe, at this time, should be discussed. Whether this party or that country likes this or dislikes that is an issue that will not necessarily be taken into account in considering holding a summit. I have not read Shim'on Peres' statement you told me about the Arab League and the Security Council, which he says is paralyzed and will be of no use to us — I know that this is their viewpoint — and the need for direct negotiations. The fact is that there are direct negotiations. However, there should not be any unilateral steps. In other words, direct negotiations go in one line. Parallel to this line are unilateral steps to impose a fait accompli. This is nonsense and unacceptable. We have to explain this issue to the Arab public opinion, basically. True, there are negotiations. As long as there are negotiations then let us sit to the negotiating table. We will not convene other international meetings if the situation does not require such meetings. However, taking unilateral steps on the city of Jerusalem, which should be basically dealt with according to Security Council Resolutions, UN resolutions, and the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. The final status of this issue should be dealt with in the final negotiations.

Based on this concept, these resolutions, and international legitimacy, Israel does not have the right to take unilateral measures, like confiscating lands, changing the demographic structure, changing the geographic features, and altering the legal status. All these measures are illegal. Negotiations are under way, so let us sit down and hold negotiations provided that the legitimate framework is respected and that no steps affecting the status of Jerusalem are taken. These two things go in parallel. Concluding, I say that Israel has nothing to do with convening the Arab League. As they say in English their position on this issue is irreceivable [preceding word in English], that is, unacceptable.

The Arab League convenes according to an Arab opinion. It convenes when we want to discuss Arab issues or issues that concern us. To us, Jerusalem is a very important issue. They have nothing to do with the Arab League. This is unacceptable.

As for the Security Council, this is international legitimacy which serves as an umbrella under which peace negotiations are held along tracks. If we forge ahead along the peace tracks in accordance with what was agreed upon and these frameworks then there is no need to convene the Security Council. But, it is odd that you [Israel] violate these frameworks and tell me not to go to the Security Council. Basically, you should not take measures that will have bearing on the peace process. Finally, I tell you that so long as there is a peace process moving forward in the right direction and so long as this process is not violated by unilateral measures, like lack of implementation, there is no need to convene the Security Council. These issues should be made clear. There are red, yellow, and black lines. These lines should not be confused. We do not go to the Security Council because we are holding negotiations. Then, negotiations are stalled. Subsequently, when negotiations move forward they are mired by certain measures. How can we deal with all these lines? We do not want a statement that is apparently rightful while it is false indeed. We are quite heedful of this issue. What I want to say is that the Israelis have an intelligent mentality. They can deal with many issues at the same time. We say that we will deal with them in the same caliber. We are following every thing step by step, and line by line. The fait accompli, legitimacy, negotiations, the [Arab] League, the Security Council, the United Nations, regional cooperation are issues that are quite clear to us.

[Al-Shubashi] Your Excellency, you were the first to state in Moscow that the multilateral negotiations are unprecedented in history given that countries are negotiating before peace is established among them. Is it true, as some reports have said, that in the aftermath of the Jerusalem crisis a position has jelled to stop or

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suspend regional cooperation with Israel as some sort of pressure or as a final card?

[Musa] You should disregard such sensational topics. The situation in the Middle East and the status of the peace process are serious. Any measures or steps should be taken with a view to supporting and salvaging the peace process and not for the sake of capturing news headlines. I believe that all the measures that we take should be intended to back the peace process and augment it and not to undermine it. Measures that undermine the peace process entail a great responsibility, as has happened in the issue of Jerusalem. These measures were reversed afterwards. Another case in point is the Israeli nuclear program which turned to be a very serious issue. Now this issue is being negotiated and discussed. It has become part of the regional activity. This is a serious action. That is all.

[Al-Shubashi] Your Excellency, did you have the impression that Washington and Tel Aviv managed, following the recent crisis, to verify that Jerusalem is a red line? You have just said that there are red, yellow, and green lines. Do you believe now that there is a conviction that Jerusalem is a red line?

[Musa] This was very clear, even in the reaction of the U.S. Administration to the debate on moving the embassy to Jerusalem. This was also clarified by Christopher who said that we do not want to focus on this issue. Washington understands this full well. Christopher's statements were also positive, very clear, and acceptable. A seemingly detrimental thing might prove beneficial. The measures Israel was planning to take have given rise to some positions that have clarified things to all parties and powers. These positions have made it clear that no party should believe that things are that easy and that no one party or power has continued to be superior forever. There are some restrictions that can stop any power regardless of the results.

[Al-Shubashi] Regarding the recent contacts to hold the mini-summit, did you feel any measure of improvement in the Arab atmosphere — an atmosphere that calls for optimism that probably a wider summit will be held in the future?

[Musa] In fact, there is an improvement; the situation is better. There is an increasing awareness that Arabs should secure a minimum degree, at least, of understanding and consultations. They should agree that there are red lines, which if they are trespassed by anyone, then we should adopt a serious position. Other than this each Arab state has its own interests. However, there is a certain measure of Arab solidarity. Solidarity is not a moral issue. It could be that in a previous stage, we used to talk about Arab solidarity and unity romantically. Now, this solidarity is an interest that determines whether we should exist or not. There are threats to the [Arab] security, entity, and identity. Therefore, we have to agree that if any one of has faced a set back then we will all suffer. I believe there is improvement and I am somewhat optimistic about this issue.

[Al-Shubashi] Are you optimistic about the Barcelona conference? Will the European-Mediterranean economic cooperation be different from the multilateral talks and the Casablanca conference?

[Musa] Yes, Barcelona has nothing to do with the peace process. We are talking about cooperation. Three years ago, we have talked about the Mediterranean symposium. We said that there should be monetary cooperation among the Mediterranean countries. The Mediterranean symposium has met for the first time in Alexandria to pay tribute to Egypt which launched that initiative. As you might remember, President Mubarak announced this initiative in Strasbourg before the European Parliament. This was followed by a meeting in France two months ago. This Mediterranean concept is expanding as it will not be restricted to the countries abutting the Mediterranean but will include significant groupings. The European Unity [EU] is a significant and crucial grouping. It has a Mediterranean policy. It called for this meeting to discuss cooperation between Europe and the Mediterranean countries.

[Al-Shubashi] Economic cooperation?

[Musa] Economic cooperation as well as other aspects of cooperation. The economic aspect is now being highlighted because Europe will allocate a specific amount of aid to East Europe and the Mediterranean, not the Arab world or the Middle East. There will be a debate on how this amount will be spent in the areas of development, environment, etc. There are also other political and cultural issues that will be discussed in this conference. This conference has nothing to do with the peace process. The Middle East peace process will not be discussed. It will not discuss regional cooperation from a Middle East perspective and will not discuss an issue like Cyprus or the Turkish-Greek standoff. Turkey will attend and Greece, as an EU member, will attend. All the Mediterranean countries, including the Palestinian administration, Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Malta, Cyprus and other countries will attend.

[Al-Shubashi] Thank you, Your Excellency.

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Al-Baz on Israel Visit, Syrian-Israeli Peace

NC2905115795 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1015 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris, 29 May (MENA) — Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has said that his recent visit to Israel was prompted by Egypt's motive to make Israel understand the importance and sensitivity of the issue of Jerusalem, not only for the Palestinian people who are directly concerned with it, but for all Arab and Islamic states. Jerusalem is sensitive for Arabs and Muslims as much as it is for the Jews, al-Baz said.

In an interview with Paris Radio L'Orient, Dr. al-Baz pointed out that he tried to explain to Israel the serious repercussions of any unilateral measure. We explained that any unilateral measure will not be acceptable to us because it would adversely affect the peace process, he said. He added: The peace process will lose its credibility if Israel tries to force on us a preplanned outcome of negotiations because it is placing obstacles before any Palestinian proposal concerning the status of Jerusalem.

Al-Baz added: We tried to explain to the Israeli Government that the suspension of the expropriation decision must be a permanent and sustained measure rather than a tactic. We told the Israelis that as we welcome the suspension decision, we hope Israel will understand the seriousness of any unilateral Israeli measure either now or in the future.

Replying to a question on the Arab minisummit, Dr. al-Baz said that the conference was expected to be held in Morocco to discuss one issue: The recent Israeli measure of seizing Palestinian lands, whether the 535 dunams or the expansion of this area in the future, a thing the Palestinian brothers fear might happen.

Al-Baz denied that the conference was received unenthusiastically. Our information says that there was wide enthusiasm by all states to attend at a high level, the presidential or next in line if the president is unable to attend for some reason. We were thinking about the possible outcome of such a conference. We did not want just another meeting that concludes without results. This would negatively affect joint Arab action, a thing we do not want, al-Baz said.

He added: When Israel suspended the expropriation decision, some states saw that it would be better not to hold the conference and to wait and see how things would develop so that if the Israeli measures were repeated the conference could still be held.

He said that he felt in his talks with the Israeli officials and the foreign minister that Israel has taken into consideration the position of the states they believe are assuming a positive attitude toward the peace process. In other words, the states that held agreements with Israel, like Egypt, Jordan and the PLO, which we hope will develop into a state later on. They also took into consideration the harm this would inflict on talks on the Syrian track. Implementing the expropriation decision would certainly obstruct negotiations on the Syrian track. This means that the peace process would be frozen for an unknown period, particularly on the Syrian track.

Touching on talks on the Syrian-Israeli track, Dr. al-Baz said that although what has developed is a major accomplishment, it is wrong to overestimate it. He explained that this accomplishment made it possible to resume negotiations and to let the American side play a role of mediation between the two sides. It allowed the American side to enhance its role and seek to speed up the rate of progress or communication between the two sides to bridge the gaps, al-Baz said.

He added that it is clear that the agreement concerns only one point of the negotiated basic articles, namely the general principles to govern the security arrangements. Since the beginning, Syria has rightfully insisted on working out a clear framework for the principles that will govern these arrangements, that is, the meaning of equality, balance, and stances to determine the actual application of these guidelines; the area in which these security arrangements will be made; the points at which early warning stations will be placed; and the number of troops, al-Baz said.

He added that the size of the force to be deployed in the region will be determined. He said that the two sides will have to decide if there will be a demilitarized zone followed by another zone with limited military presence and whether they will be equal in size. All this will be negotiated, he said, adding: Personally, I think that no agreement will be reached on these points before two or three months, because it is a complicated matter.

Dr. al-Baz added that experience with the Israeli side has taught him that "it is not easy to interpret the points into actual reality." An agreement has been reached on certain points. But when it comes to interpretation and implementation, the schools of thought differ and views diverge considerably. Although the present agreement will make it easier to reach an accord on the other points, they are very important and complicated, al-Baz said.

Dr. al-Baz pointed out that Syria "rightfully" demands withdrawal to the borders of 4 June 1967. This is the literal stipulation of UN Security Council Resolution 242. We believe that Israel has no right to dispute that,

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talk about international borders, or exclude certain areas, he said.

Dr. al-Baz affirmed that negotiations on this matter will not be easy. There is also the question of establishing peaceful ties between Syria and Israel and the timing of the two elements, withdrawal and peace ties, he said.

He added that the Israelis are suggesting a very long time to complete withdrawal, while the Syrian brothers believe that withdrawal from the Golan can be completed in a short period. There are also outstanding matters like the status of settlements and the withdrawal of the settlers. We want and hope the two sides will reach an agreement, even an initial one, about these points before the beginning of next year to avoid being caught in the whirlwind of obstruction due to elections in Israel and the United States. No peace issue can withstand postponement, he remarked.

We believe that it is in the interest of the Israeli Government to enter the elections with a major accomplishment. The tangible detente on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, in addition to what can be achieved on the Palestinian track, will certainly put the Israeli Government in a better position than if it waits for accomplishments that might or might not happen, he said.

Mubarak, Kuwaiti Amir Discuss Peace, Cooperation

NC2905192695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1838 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 29 May (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak and Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah held talks this evening, during which they reviewed current developments in the Arab arena, the Middle East peace process, and the recent developments on the various Arab tracks, particularly the Palestinian and Syrian tracks.

Following the two-hour session of talks, which was held at the presidential office, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that the two leaders discussed issues pertaining to the Gulf region, Arab solidarity, and the outlook for the joint Arab action. They also discussed the necessary means to consolidate cooperation between Egypt and Kuwait.

The information minister noted that the meeting gave an opportunity for the two leaders to discuss a number of issues related to joint cooperation in the fields of economy, culture, health, and the bilateral exchange of expertise.

Amir Meets GCC, Syrian Envoys

NC3005102695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0918 GMT 30 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 30 May (MENA) — Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, who is visiting Egypt, met this morning in his current residence at the Presidential Palace at al-Qubbah with the ambassadors of the six Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states, the Syrian ambassador in Cairo, and Egypt's delegate to the Arab League. These are the eight countries that have signed the Damascus Declaration.

Syrian Ambassador in Cairo, Dr. 'Isa Darwish, said the Kuwaiti amir was eager to hold this meeting during his visit to Egypt to present the facts to the Damascus Declaration member countries in order to develop and consolidate relations among the eight countries.

In a statement after the meeting, the Syrian ambassador said: Shaykh Jabir briefed us on the outcome of his visits to Britain and France, his meetings with these European countries' political leaders, and his meeting with President Husni Mubarak.

He added that the Kuwaiti amir emphasized the Arabs' desire to achieve a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East.

The Syrian ambassador said Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah stated during the meeting that without making peace with Syria and withdrawal from south Lebanon and the Golan, there will be no just and comprehensive peace in the region.

He added that the Kuwaiti amir emphasized that in his talks with all officials in France and Britain, he spoke in the name of all Arabs, especially in talks concerning the crucial Arab issues.

The Syrian ambassador cited the Kuwaiti amir as saying that during his trip to France and Britain, he stressed the importance of the two European countries' role in backing the Middle East peace process.

Musa Comments on Mubarak-'Arafat Talks

NC2905145295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 29 May (MENA) — Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said today that the talks between President Husni Mubarak and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat prior to the latter's departure for Gaza today dealt with the outcome of the recent meetings in Morocco as well as with the results of the Palestinian-Israeli committees' negotiations.

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The foreign minister said the two presidents underlined the significance of the 1 July deadline that has been set by the Palestinian and Israeli sides for starting the redeployment of the Israeli forces outside the towns and provinces that are densely populated by Palestinians and for holding the elections later, since this is a principal step in the Palestinian-Israeli peace process.

'Amr Musa added that Presidents Mubarak and 'Arafat also touched on Palestinian-Israeli relations and their cooperation in the economic and trade fields.

Alluding to the meetings of the disarmament working group slated to begin in Geneva today, 'Amr Musa said that Egypt will present its stand on the issue of disarmament and making the Middle East a zone free of weapons of mass destruction.

On the situation in Bosnia, the foreign minister said that all the Egyptians in the UN forces in Bosnia are well. However, he pointed out that the situation in Bosnia is grave in view of continued Serbian attacks, particularly on the UN peacekeeping forces there.

Sidqi Promises 'Free, Honest' Assembly Elections

NC2905195595 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1750 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 29 May (MENA) — Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi has affirmed that the next People's Assembly elections will be totally free and honest. He said the government believes that free elections are the best way to form an assembly that is representative of the people.

In a speech today to the People's Assembly during the final session of the current parliamentary term, Dr. Sidqi said although the Assembly is going into recess, the deputies must not stay away or remain aloof from the government, declaring: We are always here to serve everybody and fulfill any legal request. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Al-Bashir Meets Carter's Envoy on Peace Efforts

EA2705190095 Khartoum SUNA in English
1727 GMT 27 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, may 27 (SUNA) — President of the republic Gen. al-Bashir met in his office at the friendship hall here Saturday [27 May] envoy of the former U.S. President Jimmy Carter director of projects at Carter's [word indistinct]. The meeting tackled the efforts to realize peace from within. Carter's envoy has praised the Sudan Government's decision on extenion of the cease-fire period for another two months, hoping that exension of cease-fire will boost the peace efforts. He also hoped the two- month cease-fire will be utilized for prompt delivery of relief the war-affected people. Carter's envoy, in a press statement, hoped that the recent talks between Al-Bashir and the reactivation of the IGADD's [Intergovernmental Authority on Droughts and Development] initiative for realizing peace in south Sudan. He called on the leadership of the Outlaws' Movement to respond positively to the cease-fire decision. The emissary has appreciated serious cooperation which he found from Sudan Government as regards implementing his task. He also commended cooperation of the Sudan relief agencies with Carter's centre. Carter's envoy said that he will visit Ethiopia and Kenya in the coming day, adding that he will submit a report to the former U.S. President Jimmy Carter on outcome of his tour.

Peace Council Chairman Views Nairobi Talks

EA2805180795 Khartoum SUNA in English
1711 GMT 28 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, May 28 (SUNA) — The secretary general of the High Council for Peace, HCP, Lino Rol Deng has described the outcome of talks he held with the outlaw's factions in Nairobi recently as fruitful toward realization of peace from within in Sudan. [sentence as received]

Deng told the SUDAN NEWS AGENCY, SUNA, that the talks revealed the increasing desire of the different outlaw's factions for serious peace negotiations. He indicated that faction of the outlaw Riak Machar, which had been calling for separation of the south from the north, became fully convinced with the unity of Sudan. Representatives of Machar faction have expressed views based on more federalism in the framework of united Sudan, HCP secretary general said.

Deng, who returned here from Nairobi Sunday [28 May] after a several-day visit, said that Machar's faction is expected to adopt a positive role in the coming round of peace talks between the government and the outlaw's factions in the context of the IGADD [Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development]-sponsored peace initiative.

Meanwhile, Deng underlined that new groups in the faction of the outlaw John Garang are demanding determination of federalism topic which is existing peace talks agenda. [sentence as received] He said that these groups are increasingly convinced with the uselessness of the war in the south, adding that new groups within the Garang faction are inclining for peace talks and more federalism. Deng said that the High Council for Peace will work for removing any suspicion on the part of the new groups in Garang movement

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toward achievement of a lasting solution to the south problem. He ruled out unity and merger between the different outlaw's factions in current period due to the prevalent disintegration among these factions.

Deng said that the Garang movement is still rejected by many southern tribes, adding that participation of all the outlaw's factions in the peace process will lead to holding of serious peace talks, especially after the government has extended the cease-fire period.

SPLA Official Denies Remarks on Talks

AB2905221395 London BBC World Service in English 1505 GMT 29 May 95

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Sudanese Government says it has been having fruitful talks with both wings of the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army], but tonight, we got a call from John Garang's spokesman in Nairobi, (Steven Wandu), completely contradicting that official statement. On the line, Robin White asked Mr. (Wandu) how he responded to all this talk about talks.

[Begin recording] [(Wandu)] Well, Lino Rol Deng [High Council for Peace secretary general] may have been in Nairobi for his own thing, but what I can tell you for certain is that we made no contact with him, and I can also tell you Riak Machar's people never made any official contact with him.

[White] So, who do you think he might have met?

[(Wandu)] He may have met his friends in town, in coffee places, talking their own common matters but certainly not the SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement]-SPLA or the SSIM [South Sudan Independence Movement] officially in that capacity.

[White] It all sounds a bit bizarre.

[(Wandu)] Absolutely bizarre. I am shocked. In fact, that is why I am very, very disturbed about this kind of thing. You see, we are very busy with the SSIM trying to put our house in order, trying to unify our forces, trying to reorganize our political structures. We have been doing this since 31 March and Khartoum is trying to pour water on this and trying to drive a wedge between us.

[White] Presumably, he must have spoken to some representatives of some southern Sudanese organizations.

[(Wandu)] I would not rule out the possibility of him having met some southern Sudanese individuals in Nairobi, an individual who can speak for himself, whatever he thinks. He may have even met his own relatives, but I am telling you that he has not met any institution called SPLM-SPLA.

[White] If he had wanted to meet you, would you have met him?

[(Wandu)] If the Sudan Government had sent a delegation to meet us under the IGADD [Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development] initiative, certainly yes. We would have.

[White] Last week, President Moi of Kenya, he was in Khartoum and he had talks with the Sudanese leader, 'Umar al-Bashir. What do you make of that?

[(Wandu)] Well,I presume that President Moi is trying to persuade al-Bashir to see sense and come back to the negotiating table. I would like to believe that.

[White] After these talks, though, the cease-fire was renewed.

[(Wandu)] The [former U.S. President Jimmy] Carter cease-fire was ....[pauses] We were requested to hold a cease-fire. The Khartoum government at first rejected it, and I think it was thanks to President Moi's visit that they decided to accept an extension of the cease-fire. I do not have much hope on that. I know that they will break it the next day, but that is what they did.

[White] I am wondering if, you know, with President Moi going to Khartoum, the writing might be on the wall for people like yourself, who are based in Nairobi. You might get chucked out.

[(Wandu)] I would not like to speak for the Government of Kenya.

[White] But, do you feel under threat?

[(Wandu)] Not so far, no. [end recording]

Ummah Party on 'Large-Scale Arrest Campaign'

NC2605204795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1945 GMT 26 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 26 May (MENA)—A statement issued by the Sudanese Ummah Party has said that the Sudanese regime carried out a large-scale arrest campaign among the citizens and leaders of al-Ansar and Ummah Party yesterday, 25 May.

The statement, which MENA received by fax, said that the torture the detainees are being subjected to in

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the prisons is a response to the local, regional, and international reaction to the arrest of Ummah Party Leader al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and the fact that he was tortured.

The statement noted that the number of detainees in Sudanese prisons has reached 200 citizens. It also said that the Sudanese regime lives in a state of chaos and fear of confronting peaceful protests. This has led it to declare a state of alert among the various security forces.

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Kuwait

Bosnian Minister To Visit 3 Jun; Official Comments

LD2905191895 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1830 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 29 May (KUNA) — It was announced here today that Dr. Haris Silajdzic, prime minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina, will arrive 3 June for a visit at the head of a delegation from his country. Nasir 'Abdallah al-Rawdhan, second deputy prime minister, minister of finance, minister of state for cabinet affairs, and acting minister of planning, said in a press statement that Kuwait welcomed the visit and wished Silajdzic and the delegation accompanying him an enjoyable stay. Al-Rawdhan also said that Kuwait underlined its solidarity with the Bosnian people in the tragedy it was going through as a result of Serb aggression, and Kuwait was following closely recent developments in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina following the practices and infringements by the Serb forces against the Bosnian people and the UN peacekeeping forces, in clear defiance of international legality. [passage omitted]

Al-Rawdhan expressed confidence that the visit of the Bosnian prime minister would contribute to the strengthening of close cooperation between the two countries for the benefit of the two friendly peoples.

Council of Ministers Condemns Serb 'Criminal Acts'

LD2805180195 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Council of Ministers held a meeting this morning under the chairmanship of the acting prime minister and foreign minister, Shaykh Sabah al Ahmad al-Jabir. [passage omitted]

Nasir 'Abdullah al Rawdhan, second deputy prime minister and minister of state for cabinet affairs, reported the following after the Council's session:

The State of Kuwait has followed with great anxiety the massacres carried out by the Serb forces, which consisted of random shelling of unarmed citizens in the Tuzla region of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, kidnapping of members of the UN peacekeeping forces and using them as human shields.

The State of Kuwait condemns these criminal acts, which represent a dangerous escalation and a blatant violation of human rights and defiance of international legality, represented by the efforts made by the United Nations so security and stability prevail in that part of the world. The State of Kuwait adds its voice to that of the international community for the adoption of a firm and decisive stance towards the continuation of the Serb forces' aggressive practices against the sons of the Bosnian people.

Kuwait calls for joint efforts to put an end to these human tragedies. The Council of Ministers has decided to send urgent medical and food supplies to those affected by the shelling to ease their sufferings and help them overcome the effects of these criminal acts. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Iraqi Foreign Minister Makes 24-Hour Visit

NC2905212695 Paris AFP in English 2034 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Doha, May 29 (AFP) — Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf arrived here Monday [29 May] for a 24-hour visit to deliver a message from President Saddam Husayn, Qatari sources said.

It was his second visit this year. But in contrast to last time, in March, there was no official announcement of the trip.

Al-Sahhaf was to deliver the message to the crown prince and defence minister, Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifa Al Thani, the sources said. There was no word on the contents of the message.

Doha, unlike other Gulf Arab monarchies, has warmed its relations with Baghdad since the 1991 Gulf war which drove Iraqi forces out of Kuwait.

Yemen

Explosion at Aden Weapons Depot Reported

Ministry Denies Casualties Sustained

JN2705124495 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1208 GMT 27 May 95

[Statement by "a responsible source at the Interior Ministry"; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] A fire broke out at a weapons depot in the Jabal Hadid area in Aden at 0915 [0615 GMT] today. Several of the stored missiles exploded from the fire. The explosions lasted for approximately 30 minutes, causing fires that the fire brigades are trying to control. No casualties were sustained. An investigation committee was formed to pinpoint the cause of fire.

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Witnesses See Warplane

NC2705102095 Paris AFP in English
1010 GMT 27 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Aden, Yemen, May 27 (AFP) — An ammunition dump in the southern Yemeni city of Aden blew up Saturday [27 May], injuring several students at a nearby high school, witnesses said.

Witnesses said they saw a warplane fly over the Jebel Al-Hadad site shortly before the first explosion around 9:15 A.M. (0615 GMT). A second explosion occurred an hour later.

KUNA Claims Katyusha Rockets Fired

LD2705115095 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1027 GMT 27 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Aden, 27 May (KUNA) — A few moments ago military personnel in Aden said that three Katyusha rockets fell on three (?military positions) in Aden this morning, including the arms depot [word indistinct].

They told the KUNA correspondent that the last two rockets fell on the naval position in (al-Tawahi) area; and Dar Sa'd, a military position north of Aden. Neither the location from which the rockets were fired, nor the amount of damage they caused is known.

Army forces continued to besiege the city since the explosions in the arms depot at 0900 [local time] this morning, and conduct intense searches for citizens.

KUNA learned that a large-scale campaign of arrest targeting the supporters of the opposition abroad had accompanied the three incidents.

Interior Minister Details Explosion

JN2705184795 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1700 GMT 27 May 95

[Report by by Faysal Mukarrak in Sanaa]

[FBIS Translated Text] A series of explosions rocked Aden, the economic and trade center of Yemen, this morning. The explosions, which lasted for more than one hour, shook the city, creating a state of fear and anxiety. In a statement to Radio Monte Carlo tonight, Yemeni Interior Minister Yahya al-Mutawakkil said: The incident began when a fire broke out at the entrance of the Jabal Hadid area, which overlooks the city, and in which there is a depot for artillery ammunition and missiles. The fire spread to four depots containing ammunition. As a result of the fire, many missiles were launched at a number of the city's quarters. However, the missiles did not explode because they were unloaded [ghayr mujahazzah], and there were no casualties. The Yemeni interior minister added that a joint committee from the Interior and Defense Ministries has been formed to investigate the causes of the incident. He said that security personnel took to the streets to reassure the citizens, adding that the fire, which broke out at the site, was completely extinguished at 1500, Aden time, [1200 GMT] today.

Mayor: Blast Due to High Temperature

JN2805100095 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0815 GMT 28 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sanaa, 28 May (INA) — A responsible Yemeni source has said the Yemeni authorities have fully controlled the fire in a munitions dump in the Hadid area in the south Yemeni city of Aden. The source said there were no fatalities and the situation was calm again hours after the blaze.

The source denied news agency reports that an unidentified plane overflew the area, adding that communications, electric power, and water supplies were not cut off in the city as claimed by some news agencies. He added that these claims are baseless and said some sick-minded people propagate such rumors with the aim of wreaking havoc and sowing sedition in the country.

A Yemeni Interior Ministry source yesterday said fire broke out in a depot in the Jabal Hadid area in Aden causing the explosion of some stored shells.

In a related development, Aden Governor Taha Ahmad Ghanim said in a statement to the Yemeni press today that the fire in a munitions depot in Aden was caused by high temperature. He added that the security men and firefighters extinguished the fire within half an hour and that no human losses were reported except for minor damage to citizens' houses.

Commission Rules Out Sabotage

LD2805181795 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1730 GMT 28 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Aden, 28 May, (KUNA) — A Yemeni military commission has begun its inquiries into yesterday's series of explosions at ammunition dumps in Aden.

Sources close to the commission told the Kuwaiti News Agency, KUNA, in Aden today that initial inquiries with military officers in charge of the ammunition dump at Jabal Hadid in the Khur Muksir region had ruled out a sabotage act. However, the circumstances of the explosions were still unclear because of the death of all the soldiers who happened to be near the first blast, they added.

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The sources insisted, however, that "the explosions took place at four dumps which were housing ammunition for artillery and combat aircraft as well as anti-aircraft batteries; everything was destroyed."

The sources put the initial estimate of the damage caused by the explosions to more than one billion Yemeni riyals, i.e. nearly $20 million. [passage omitted]

Salih Warns Not To Use Amnesty To Perform Sabotage

JN2805083295 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 28 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Lieutenant General President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, accompanied by Vice President 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur, attended the inaugural session of the House of Representatives' third annual term. The brother prime minister and other ministers attended the session.

The brother president delivered a speech at this session in which he extended congratulations to the brother House speaker and members on the fifth anniversary of the Republic of Yemen. He said that it is a great opportunity to attend the inauguration of the legislative term of 1995. Addressing the House members, the president said: We pin great hopes on your esteemed assembly to support the executive authority at this stage experienced by the homeland. He said: The revolution emerged victorious from the battle in defense of the republic, and the people emerged victorious from the battle in defense of unity and democracy. We are now waging a third battle, which is the battle of reconstruction. It is the peak of jihad. This is the third and crucial battle, God willing. It is the battle for economic building and financial and administrative reform. It is a battle which requires concerted efforts by all political efforts to build the new Yemen, the Yemen of 22 May.

Continuing his speech, the brother president said: Each one of us is aware that our people used to rely on themselves to cover their needs from their national resources. However, affected by the neighboring market, our people are now noted to tend to depend on others. They have deserted their farms and villages, have emigrated to cities, and have neglected the raising of livestock and poultry, relying on others' products. Our current suffering is the outcome of that dependence. We are now supporting non-Yemeni farmers by approximately $400 million — the worth of our wheat imports — instead of using this money to support our strategic projects, such as agricultural development projects, roads, universities, and power stations.

Touching on the general amnesty decision, the brother president said: It seems that some are taking advantage the amnesty decision, issued during the battle in defense of unity, to carry out acts of looting, sabotage, and other disturbances. Those people should behave themselves and benefit positively from the general amnesty. Otherwise, our stand on those people who have not learned from the past will be reconsidered. He said: This sabotage does not harm us. We won the greater 26 September, 14 October, and 7 July battles. As for those acts of sabotage, they are insignificant and cause no concern.

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Ramadan Says Cooperation With UN Not Indefinite

JN2905102995 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0755 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 29 May (INA) — Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has said that the second year of President Saddam Husayn's chairmanship of the Council of Ministers [beginning 29 May] will be decisive in overcoming crises and in witnessing the emergence of serious indications concerning the implementation of Paragraph 22 of UN Security Council Resolution No. 687.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-THAWRAH published today, Ramadan said that the majority of states now absolutely believe that Iraq has honored its commitments and that the UN Security Council should in return implement Paragraph 22 of Part C of Resolution 687 without any conditions.

Taha Yasin Ramadan said that this stand is not new, but emerged a year ago. He said: When the United States noticed that this stand became widespread among the majority of the UN Security Council, the world states, and world public opinion, it began to prepare for Resolution 986. However, aware of this game, our people foiled it completely.

He added that all states except for the United States have become fully convinced that our rejection of the resolution was appropriate. The evil intentions behind the issuance of the resolution have become clear to the overwhelming majority of world states.

The vice president said: We will continue to cooperate, but this does not mean that cooperation will continue indefinitely. The time before the blockade is lifted must not be long. The first step toward the immediate and full lifting of the blockade is represented by the implementation of Paragraph 22 within a short and acceptable time. Otherwise, this cooperation cannot go on indefinitely for nothing.

Baghdad 'Losing Patience'

NC2905165795 Paris AFP in English
1440 GMT 29 May 95

[Report by Farouk Choukri]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, May 29 (AFP) — The UN disarmament chief for Iraq said on arrival Monday [29 May] he hoped to complete talks quickly on missing materials with chemical and germ warfare potential, as Baghdad signalled it was losing patience.

Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) on Iraq, said his talks in Baghdad would help him write a report to the UN Security Council on June 19 so it can take "a decisive decision." He did not elaborate.

Ekeus, accompanied by seven experts in ballistic weapons as well as chemical and germ warfare, said he would meet Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz during his mission which he expected to end Thursday.

Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan warned meanwhile that Baghdad has met its disarmament obligations and "cannot continue cooperating indefinitely" with the United Nations if the oil embargo is not lifted soon.

Ekeus told reporters here that "we are going to continue our dialogue on the issues related to the implementation of (disarmament) Resolution 687 and hopefully to get it concluded as soon as possible."

The former Swedish diplomat said last week he was "reasonably confident" Iraq would deliver on a pledge to account for precursors for producing up to 250 tonnes of combat nerve gas known as VX.

But Ekeus also said Baghdad must explain what happened to 17 tonnes of growth media which can be used to make biological weapons — which he described as the "major outstanding problem."

"We hope for the best," he told reporters in Baghdad who asked what he expected from the talks.

The experts accompanying Ekeus are American, British, Canadian, German and Russian, a UN official said. UNSCOM spokesman Tim Trevan and ballistics expert Nikita Smidovich of Russia, a veteran of UN missions here, were among them.

Ekeus' four-day mission follows one by his deputy, Charles Duelfer, who left Baghdad on May 17 with no new information on either the chemical or biological warfare questions.

UN suspicions Iraq is hiding material to make chemical and biological weapons have dashed any Iraqi hopes of an immediate end to the UN sanctions.

The official Iraqi press in the past has accused Ekeus of bad faith and playing into the hands of Washington which has taken a hard line against the lifting of sanctions.

Ramadan said "Baghdad has fulfilled its obligations and the Security Council must in turn" apply Paragraph 22 of UN Resolution 687 which calls for a lifting of the oil embargo once Baghdad meets disarmament requirements.

"Paragraph 22 must be applied in a short and acceptable period of time. Otherwise Iraq will not be able to continue cooperating indefinitely without something in

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return," he warned in a statement to AL-THAWRAH newspaper.

Ramadan accused the United States of imposing "their hegemony on the Security Council to maintain the embargo against Iraq." Sanctions were imposed after Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

Iraqi officials said Ekeus would meet informally later Monday with General 'Amir Rashid, the head of Iraq's Military Industrialization Organization, before starting talks on Tuesday.

Opposition: Execution of Officers Incites Riots

NC2905153495 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Citing reliable sources, the newspaper KURDISTAN NWAY reports today that dignitaries representing the city of al-Ramadi submitted a petition to Saddam Husayn, head of the Iraqi regime, a few days before 'Id al-Adha [10 May], urging him not to go through with the execution of 20 officers who were charged of attempting a coup against the regime. However, the execution was carried out and Saddam sent the bodies of the 20 officers, including the body of Major General Muhammad Mahdi, to al-Ramadi on 20 May.

The paper adds that the masses in al-Ramadi gained full control the city during funeral services for the executed officers. This prompted the Baghdad dictator to send troops from Baghdad to surround al-Ramadi. [passage indistinct].

Baghdad Forces Reportedly Kill Rioters

NC2905143595 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The forces of the ruling regime in Baghdad perpetrated a massacre in the city of al-Ramadi at the end of last week when they fired on demonstrators, killing 100 people. Information from Iraq says that Saddam Husayn's regime sent its forces against people protesting the bad conditions. Many people were killed in armed confrontations. The information stresses that tension continues to prevail in al-Ramadi and other Iraqi cities.

AFP Details Ex-Interior Minister's Role

NC2905130995 Paris AFP in English 1207 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, May 29 (AFP) — Around 30 people were killed and hundreds wounded when Iraqi security forces crushed riots in a province west of Baghdad two weeks ago, travelers said Monday [29 May] quoting local residents.

The violence broke out May 17 in al-Ramadi, capital of al-Anbar province, after authorities handed over the body of an air force general, Muhammad Mazlum al-Dulaymi, implicated last year in a coup attempt, Arab diplomats told AFP.

Members of the powerful Sunni Muslim al-Dulaymi clan, which is usually loyal to President Saddam Husayn, set fire to public buildings after seeing the body which was mutilated from torture, the diplomats said.

President Saddam Husayn sent elite troops backed by tanks and helicopters to crush the violence, the diplomats said.

The travelers, quoting local residents, said 30 people, most of them members of the al-Dulaymi clan, were killed and several hundred people were wounded in several days of violence.

One traveler said "around a dozen Iraqi officials suffered burns when rioters set fire to public buildings."

Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan, a half-brother of the president, travelled to the region with elite troops, rejected talks with tribal leaders whom he insulted before cracking down on the population, the diplomats said.

They said Saddam subsequently dismissed al-Hasan in a move to appease the al-Dulaymi tribe.

The official Iraqi news agency INA announced May 22 the appointment of Muhammad Zimam 'Abd-al-Razzaq to replace al-Hasan, who was named adviser to the president with the rank of minister.

Attack on Saddam's Palace Thwarted

NC2605152395 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An armed group has attacked Saddam Husayn's palace in al-Ramadi city. The group managed to infiltrate some parts of the palace, destroy the doors and windows, ruin the insides, and kill the commander of the protection unit. However, the remaining members of the unit, who were inside the palace, fought the attackers for two hours and arrested five of them. The attack is thought to have taken place because they believed that Saddam was secretly hiding inside the palace.

On the other hand, the Saddam Husayn regime's oppressive forces are carrying out a large-scale campaign of

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attacks and arrests in al-Ramadi City after the demonstrations that took place there by the al-Dulaym tribes. The tribes were protesting the execution of more than 60 officers and officials in al-Anbar Governorate and from al-Dulaym tribes because of an accusation that they tried to carry out a coup in Iraq.

Paper Outlines 'Incidents'

MM2605114695 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 26 May 95 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Iraqi Opposition Information: Demonstrators Killed al-Anbar Governor After Execution of Those Accused of Carrying Out Coup Attempt"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH — The Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation [IBC] of the Unified Iraqi National Congress [UINC] has reported that "a major campaign of raids and arrests is continuing in the city of al-Ramadi because of demonstrations organized by al-Dulaym tribes in protest against the execution of over 60 officers and officials from al-Anbar Governorate and from these tribes on charges of carrying out a coup attempt."

An IBC bulletin, received by AL-HAYAH in London, confirmed that the demonstrators attacked the headquarters of al-Anbar Governorate and killed 'Awwad Bandar al-Sa'dun, the governor.

It said that the incidents began on 14 May, "when the bodies of those accused of the coup attempt were handed over to their families, who were prevented from showing any signs of grief." The bulletin added that the following day the families of the victims attacked the Ba'th Party offices "and managed to capture and kill their officials. They then attacked and occupied the governorate headquarters. The bodies handed over included those of Staff Air Major General Muhammad Mazlum al-Dulaymi, commander of al-Bakr air base in Karkuk; Staff Colonel Hatif Khalaf 'Abd-al-Majid al-'Ubaydi, assistant director of the Republican Guard's Model Training Institute; Colonel Shakir Faza' Shunaytar al-Zuway'i; Staff Colonel 'Abd-al-Mu'in Yunis 'Abid al-Tamimi from the 2nd Division command; Major Salih Muhammad Salih al-Juburi; Major 'Abd-al-'Aziz Mahmud Sulayman, liaison officer of the Republican Guard command in Baghdad; Major Jum'ah al-Dulaymi; Captain Hassan al-Juburi; Air Force Captain Yahya al-Juburi; Engineer Bashshar 'Abd-al-Razzaq; 'Ala' Husayn Jamal al-Duri; Air Lieutenant Colonel Riyad Jarallah Dawud Husayn; and Shaykh Shihab al-Dulaymi."

The IBC said that a major arrest campaign had followed these events. The most prominent among those detained included Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Alim al-Sa'di, the outstanding religious scholar in al-Anbar Governorate. It also said that Interior Minister Watban al-Tikriti was dismissed after "sharp differences" between him and Saddam Husayn's son 'Udayy and after the al-Ramadi incidents.

Barzan Relationship With Saddam Called 'Lukewarm'

NC2605154395 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Barzan al-Tikriti has admitted that the dismissal of his brother Watban from the post of Interior Minister in Saddam's regime was expected after conflicts between 'Udayy, the son of the regime's chief, and Watban reached a point of no return. Diplomatic sources have told our radio station that Barzan, who expressed his anger at the dismissal of his brother, recently held contacts with a number of his friends in Western Europe. Among them was Ramzi Salman, deputy secretary general of OPEC and one of those who knows a great deal about the secrets of oil revenues and the accounts of the ruling family abroad due to his relations with Western oil companies. Barzan expressed his concerns to his friends about the development of events in Iraq, particularly regarding Saddam's [words indistinct] on the resources of the country, the absence of security, and the spread of starvation as a result of the continuing international sanctions. These sources also noted that despite the fact that Saddam's other brothers — foremost of whom is Sab'awi, head of Public Security — have retained their posts so far, their powers have been reduced a great deal since Saddam made his son Qusay directly responsible for the security and intelligence departments.

The diplomatic sources confirmed that Barzan's relationship with his half-brother Saddam is now lukewarm for many reasons. The most important of these is favoring the al-Majid clan over the half-brothers, and 'Udayy's behavior, including his continuous insults to Barzan's daughter whom he married upon orders from Saddam. These sources say that recently Barzan has begun to benefit from the Baghdad ruler's increasing isolation and foreign countries' desire to find an alternative for him, even if this alternative comes from the ruling family. He has started strengthening his relations with Western and Arab ambassadors and some Iraqi figures abroad. He has also visited Paris and Vienna during the past few months for the same reason.

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Leaders Address Knesset on Jerusalem Day

Rabin Speaks

TA2905143795 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 3 Network in Hebrew 1313 GMT 29 May 95

["Special" address to the Knesset plenum by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to mark "Jerusalem Liberation and Unification Day" — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Members of the Knesset: The right- and left-wing factions of this house hold differing views. We disagree over our path and goals. Nevertheless, I believe we have no argument over one issue: the integrity of Jerusalem and its continued status and consolidation as the capital of the State of Israel. I declared yesterday and will reiterate today that there are no two Jerusalems. There is only one Jerusalem. As far as we are concerned, Jerusalem is not open to compromise. Jerusalem was ours, will be ours, and is ours. This will remain the case for all eternity.

Nevertheless, we have a supreme obligation, as Jews and Israelis, to fully respect the followers of the two other religions for whom Jerusalem is a part of their lives and belief. We must guarantee everyone freedom of worship and access to all the religious sites. We must demonstrate tolerance and implement the dictum: to each his own belief.

Knesset members, Jerusalem is united. The marketplace is crowded; the city's streets are full of people. Since the unification of Jerusalem, 10 new residential neighborhoods have been built on 21,000 dunams of land that were expropriated for public use. In these neighborhoods, approximately 42,000 housing units were built, and approximately 150,000 people have settled in them. This construction permitted the growth of Jerusalem's population. According to the Central Bureau of Statistics, the population of the city totals 570,000. Tens of thousands of new immigrants have been absorbed in Jerusalem. In the year 2,000, Jerusalem's population is expected to reach between 650,000 and 680,000 residents.

We cannot deny, however, that there is also a downside. Over the past few years, Jerusalem has registered a negative migration count. Jerusalem is not just a focal point for prayers and nostalgic memories. It must be built. All Israeli Governments have made large investments in Jerusalem and deserve praise for their efforts. The present government has also invested greatly and will continue to invest large sums in infrastructure and the development of Jerusalem. For an entire generation, former Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek played an important role in the building of Jerusalem and demonstrated his great wisdom in managing the daily affairs of this turbulent city. We wish and hope that the city's current mayor, Knesset Member Ehud Olmert, will continue Jerusalem's development and construction, uphold its indivisibility, and determine the city's agenda in such a way as to guarantee its development, growth, and integrity.

Knesset members, yesterday, at one of the ceremonies marking Jerusalem Day, I recounted how the first paratroopers, upon reaching the summit of Ammunition Hill, found Arab families living in Bet Ha'antena, scant meters from the line of fire. Those people, who lived in such proximity to the battle over Ammunition Hill at that time, have since become our permanent neighbors. This is the reality of our life today in Jerusalem. We and the Arab residents of Jerusalem live — and must live — side by side. We are all trying to build a house, city, country, and people. I appeal to the members of all nations living in Jerusalem not to spare any efforts to live together in peace, because this is our destiny in Jerusalem: to live together, because there are not and will never be two Jerusalems. All those attempting to change the fate of this city will ultimately fail. [passage omitted]

Netanyahu Speaks

TA2905144195 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 3 Network in Hebrew 1325 GMT 29 May 95

["Special" address to the Knesset plenum by Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu to mark "Jerusalem Liberation and Unification Day" — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Today, we are again in the midst of a struggle over the integrity of Jerusalem and our sovereignty over it. We are in the midst of a struggle between wills: the national and religious will of many in the Arab and Muslim world to uproot us from this land and from this city, opposite our national and, yes, religious will to stay in it, to build and be built in it and in other parts of our country.

Knesset members, it is not enough to declare our commitment to the unity and integrity of Jerusalem. We must prove this in deed. This means taking steps that prevent the increasing erosion of our status in Jerusalem and that promote our obvious and absolute sovereignty over the city: We must close all the offices of the foreign authorities that try to establish a government here, a capital within a capital. We must explicitly urge the transfer of all foreign embassies to our capital, starting with the U.S. Embassy. We must expel all members of the various militias and security services who operate in this city at will. We must insist on our

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right to build in this city — in all parts of the city — without any restrictions, which is a basic sovereign right. Furthermore, we must make it unequivocally clear that the Israeli capital is not negotiable.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, I believe that beyond all the deeds and before any move is made, we must have faith. We must have faith in the justness of our cause, in our unshakable right to this country, this land, and this city. This belief is the rock on which we stand. Without it, our life as a nation lacks a foundation. Without it, we will be swept away in the flood of the incessant demands made of us regarding Qatamon and Talbiya, the Golan and Haifa, the Negev and the Galilee.

Let us unite on this day, which marks the liberation of Jerusalem, and rally in faith and deed. Let us remove the impure flags from the walls of our cities and vow that Jerusalem will forever and ever be the sovereign and united capital of the State of Israel.

Rabin Issues 'Draft Resolution' on Jerusalem Day

TA2805082695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 28 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The government will work to strengthen the status of united Jerusalem as Israel's exclusive capital and combat any attempt to undermine this standing. This was stipulated in a draft resolution Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin handed the ministers at the opening of this morning's cabinet session after first making a speech to mark Jerusalem Day marking the capital's reunification.

The prime minister stressed that the government has an obligation to continue building Jerusalem and to guarantee the welfare of all its residents regardless of faith or nationality. We are the sovereign in the city, Rabin said, and as a Jewish state we have a commitment to nurture tolerance and provide civil rights for all the residents. The prime minister added that next year would mark the 3,000th anniversary of Jerusalem's founding and expressed the hope that the celebrations would be held against the background of Jerusalem's unique standing in the eyes of the Jewish people without detracting from its sacredness and importance for believers of other religions.

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, who was invited to attend the cabinet session, said that the draft resolution expressed the sentiments of the majority of Israeli citizens and most Jews in the Diaspora. Olmert said that Israel's real test was not just to present a determined position vis-a-vis the international community and to thwart the unrealistic expectations of those who sought to alter the capital's status, but also to carry out activity on the ground to imbue all the city's residents with the feeling that they are an integral part of the capital. Jerusalem Mayor Olmert noted that there are gaps between the city's Arab and Jewish residents and said that this is a moral stain that must be rectified.

Rabin on Syria Talks, Dismantling Settlement

TA2605191495 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 26 May 95

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by correspondent Yisra'el Segal on 26 May; place not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Segal] Permit me, sir, at the outset of this interview to make use of your experience as a veteran military man to clarify on a map of the Golan heights, which I have with me, the points of dispute with Syria. Where do we want the border to be demarcated and where do the Syrians want it?

[Rabin] The dispute is that Syria is demanding a comprehensive withdrawal. We agreed to a withdrawal; therefore, there is a dispute between us and the Syrians over where the peace border will run.

[Segal] Are we talking about the international border?

[Rabin] I will not say more than that now because I think that as long as we have not undertaken a line of withdrawal with Syria — since the issue is not a withdrawal from the Golan Heights, but the effort to achieve peace, which will end the state of war and build a framework for peace relations — I will not draw maps.

[Segal] But the public asks itself, if I am permitted to be the public: Should we not be told what is involved? We hear there is a dispute over the international border or the 6 June, 1967 border. Why is it being kept such a secret? The Syrians know what we are discussing.

[Rabin] First, the dispute is not only over the peace border. The dispute is over four areas, and without agreement on them between us and Syria it is not possible to sign a peace agreement. The first is the location of the peace border. The second is the duration of the withdrawal to the peace border, on which there is still no agreement. Third, is to test over a period of about three years the full normalization in relations with only a very limited withdrawal on the Golan Heights before reaching the peace border.

[Segal] What does that involve?

[Rabin] I do not wish to demarcate borders. It will mean a withdrawal that is more symbolic than geographic.

[Segal] Will that limited withdrawal involve uprooting existing settlements?

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[Rabin] I hope not — at most one settlement.

[Segal] Can you explain?

[Rabin] No, I will not go into details. The fourth point is what security arrangements will be involved when we cross all the above. In other words, to what extent will it be possible to ensure that the security arrangements will provide the following aims: first, preventing daily friction whether due to border skirmishes or attempted infiltrations by terrorists. On that, by the way, we have better experience with the Syrians than with all the other countries.

[Segal] In general, you tend to say that al-Asad keeps his word.

[Rabin] I talk straight: For 17 years we have not had an incident along the border with Syria on the Golan Heights, and there has not been an attempted terrorist infiltration, not because they do not lack the desire, but because the Syrians prevented it. The Golan Heights is the safest place in Israel against terrorist attacks. The second and main point is to prevent the possibility of a sudden offensive, which of course, the Syrians are also demanding from us. That makes up the main points in the security arrangements. Third....

[Segal, interrupting] I would like simply to understand whether we are demanding security guarantees also deep inside Syria?

[Rabin] We are demanding security arrangements that will prevent the possibility of a sudden offensive. I will not say more. They are the security arrangements that have to be decided on both sides of the border because they have to meet both Syrian and Israeli demands. The depth of the arrangements have to be such that they provide us with security so as to ensure that there will not be a surprise attack on Israel.

[Segal] Now that the contacts are resuming, does that mean an understanding has been reached on all four points or only on the specific issue of security arrangements?

[Rabin] I would like to make that clear. The negotiations now being discussed, whose resumption we expect in the second half of June, will involve only the security arrangements.

[Segal] Will Uri Sagi head the talks?

[Rabin] I do not want to go into details on personnel. From my point of view, responsibility on all military matters resides will the chief of staff, who will be aided by the General Staff and officers who will participate in the negotiations.

[Segal] We will now move to the land confiscation affair in Jerusalem. Did you not foresee such an earthquake taking place in the Arab world, in fact internationally, over the decision to expropriate the 500 dunams?

[Rabin] We knew one thing: We have agreements with the Palestinians. In none is there formally, legally, or practically anything to prevent the continued development of Jerusalem. We were prepared to justify what we did. I did not have a majority to prevent the no-confidence proposal. Had I been firm and not changed my stand the government would have fallen. I would have had to set up a new government, and in order to set up a government that implements this government's peace policy, I would have needed the support of HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] and the Arab Democratic Party [ADP]. What would have happened then? They would have presented the same conditions. It appeared absurd to me under those circumstances to have the government toppled and then agree to their terms. I prayed and almost did not believe I could do it. I spoke personally Monday morning [22 May] with Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan, SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] leader Arye Der'i, and Rabbi Avraham Shapira of Agudat Yisra'el. I asked them for answers, and I asked four opposition members to abstain in the vote. I received a written answer from the Likud, partly typed and partly in Likud Chairman Netanyahu's handwriting, with three conditions, over which there was not even any room for discussion. I preferred to make a compromise and prevent the overthrow of the government since I did not know for certain that it would be possible to set up a new government that would continue implementing the policies of this government.

[Segal] The question is whether you did not open a door to further attempts to topple the government. The Likud tried to join forces with HADASH in order to topple the government, but failed because Jerusalem is such a loaded issue. In the future you could now face a similar maneuver over an issue like the Religious Affairs Ministry budget, and this time the Likud will not be facing a sensitive situation. It will join forces with a small faction and try to topple the government.

[Rabin] I believe that many know that the Likud, or more precisely the Likud chairman, attempted — as Knesset Member [MK] Darawshah said — to topple the government at the price of bringing HADASH or the ADP into a government, which appears absurd to me. I heard MK Darawshah. I believe him more than I believe the Likud chairman.

[Segal] Why?

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[Rabin] Because I heard the Likud chairman deny the statement by Syrian Foreign Minister al-Shar' that they received indirect calls from the Likud chairman saying that Likud would pay Syria to hold up the peace negotiations with Israel until the Likud takes over power. What could that mean? If it pays Syria to wait for the Likud, that means a readiness to give more than this government is prepared to give. That is how the Syrian foreign minister saw it, as he said publicly.

[Segal] Netanyahu denies it.

[Rabin] He denies Darawshah's remarks and those of al-Shar'. I am not sure who should be believed more.

[Segal] You are using diplomatic language.

[Rabin] That is right.

Rabin on Palestinian Demands, Syria Talks

TA2805081195 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0400 GMT 28 May 95

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by correspondents Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Friedman] Good morning, Mr. Prime Minister.

[Rabin] Good morning and a happy united Jerusalem Day.

[Friedman] Like us, you just heard Faysal al-Husayni say that the Palestinians have counterclaims to territory and property in West Jerusalem which they will present in the negotiations. Are they naive to believe that they will get anything in Jerusalem?

[Rabin] Permit me not to deal with this matter. It has absolutely no significance. The fate of Jerusalem was decided in two wars: the War of Independence and the 1967 war. It will remain Israel's sovereign and united capital. In these two wars, the Jewish people and the State of Israel established an unalterable fact: Jerusalem is united and will remain under Israeli sovereignty as Israel's capital and the heart of the Jewish people. I have no intention of commenting on various baseless statements which attempt to alter this reality. This reality was entrenched by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers in two wars and constitutes an everlasting fact.

[Dan] Mr. Rabin, is this not an attempt to ignore the fact that 28 years after our victory and occupation of East Jerusalem, the political battle for the city's future has begun?

[Rabin] Everyone knows that the unity of Jerusalem has been decided by the authorized body, which is the State of Israel and its governments. Clearly, it is also known that many people, especially in the Arab world have not reconciled with this fact. In the course of every peace process — starting with the peace negotiations with Egypt — the Arab elements that negotiated and reached peace with us have expressed their position with regard to Jerusalem, and this never posed the slightest hindrance to achieving peace. I am referring to the two peace treaties Israel has signed, first with Egypt and then with Jordan. We are currently negotiating with the Palestinians, and the issue of Jerusalem does not feature on the agenda at this stage. We would be well advised to uphold the line of previous Israeli governments: We seek a united Jerusalem, but as the sovereign party that controls the city we have made a commitment to the Muslim and Christian communities to maintain freedom of worship, guarantee free access to their holy sites, and respect the rights of non-Jewish residents in Jerusalem.

[Friedman] Mr. Rabin, Police Minister Shahal said over the weekend that there is a linkage between the decision to freeze the land expropriations in Jerusalem and Syria's readiness to accept the American bridging proposal with regard to security arrangements on the Golan Heights. In other words, by calling off the expropriations you not only saved your own government but salvaged the negotiations with Syria as well.

[Rabin] I have no proof of that. The negotiations for setting the framework for the resumption of the talks on security arrangements took place during my trip to the United States and during Syrian Foreign Minister al-Shar's visit. In my assessment, we would have reached the same understanding without any connection to what was regrettably agreed upon following the no-confidence motion submitted by HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] and the Arab Democratic Party, with the full support of the right-wing and religious opposition factions.

[Dan] Mr. Rabin, with your permission let us move on to discuss the Golan Heights. Regardless of whether or not there is any linkage between the two issues, on Friday [26 May] you mentioned the possibility of evacuating one settlement on the Golan Heights. The question is: Why mention this now? Is there any agreement? Are negotiations under way on the evacuation of a specific settlement, or is this merely an Israeli declaration of intent?

[Rabin] As you know, the Labor platform prior to the 1992 Knesset elections spoke about peace in exchange for a territorial compromise. This was the position we presented to the voters, and no one contested it. However, I also declared that if I was elected prime minister and came to the conclusion that peace with Syria necessitated a large-scale withdrawal, we would

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not sign a peace treaty before bringing it before the people in a national referendum.

[Friedman] Does that mean that the first stage of withdrawal will only be implemented after a national referendum?

[Rabin] Of course. We will not move one inch on the Golan Heights before we have a peace treaty that guarantees agreement on the borders in peacetime, the timeframe for withdrawal, and the integration between peace and full normalization, as well as security arrangements.

[Dan] Within the framework of the present negotiations, do the Syrians already know which settlement Israel is prepared to evacuate?

[Rabin] Of course not. Or rather, they know that we intend to carry out a symbolic withdrawal which may include one settlement. No specifics have been agreed upon. Syria and Israel have reached no agreements on maps. The moment there is a proposal for a full peace treaty, we will bring it before the public in a national referendum before starting to implement it.

[Friedman] You know, Mr. Rabin, you have got the residents of Elrom, Alonne Habasan, the soldiers at Nahal Nimrod all worked up. Could you say which of them will be evacuated first?

[Rabin] Look, we went through all this before the elections. We spoke about a territorial compromise. What is the meaning of a territorial compromise? It means a readiness to carry out a withdrawal on the Golan Heights. If it oversteps the platform we presented to the public.... [pauses] In any event, we will bring a peace treaty before the public, if and when we reach this stage.

[Friedman] Mr. Rabin, do the Syrians accept Israel's demand that the geographical element be taken into account in future security arrangements and therefore subsequently agree to these arrangements' not being equal and balanced, or does the Syrian acceptance of the American bridging proposal last week only recognize Israel's right to demand this principle?

[Rabin] The basis agreed upon permits each side to present its respective position and demands with regard to security arrangements. The Syrians do not accept our demands just as Israel does not accept theirs. The problem was to enable the holding of open negotiations.

[Friedman] The Syrians have undoubtedly heard about the two statements made by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres over the weekend. One statement, published in today's YEDI'OT AHARONOT, says that the Golan Heights is Syrian land which Israel has no desire to hang on to, while the second remark asserts that al-Asad will receive everything that al-Sadat got. Can one safely assume that Damascus already knows where the final withdrawal lines will be?

[Rabin] Right now, we are dealing with one thing: the negotiations over the security arrangements, if and when these talks resume.

[Friedman] Thank you, Prime Minister Rabin.

Rabin Said Hoping for Syrian Positive Reply to U.S. Ideas

TA2705122295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 27 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal said that one of the reasons for the prime minister's decision to suspend the land seizures in Jerusalem was the anticipation of a positive response from Damascus to the U.S. proposals within a day or two. He said the prime minister not did not want take the risk of the government being toppled and the political process with the Syrians being frozen.

Likud Knesset faction Chairman Moshe Qatzav said that one of the lessons from this week's drama in the Knesset was that the Likud would no longer support no-confidence motions raised by HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] and the Arab Democratic Party on national issues.

Beilin: Any Withdrawal Preceded by Referendum

TA2705180095 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 27 May 95

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Menashe Raz on 27 May; place not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Raz] Mr. Beilin, should the residents of Kibbutz Elrom start packing their bags?

[Beilin] No. I do not understand the excitement and anger over what has been said recently. Any interim arrangement with the Syrians will be part of a permanent settlement. There will not be a repeat of the deal with the Palestinians whereby an interim arrangement was decided upon without resolving the permanent settlement. Since we said that the permanent settlement with the Syrians would be decided in a national referendum or general elections, when the entire agreement is presented to the people, they will decide.

[Raz] In other words, no single settlement will be dismantled without a prior national referendum?

[Beilin] I believe that is so, because there will be no evacuation of a single settlement, if the talk of evacuating settlements is correct, unless it is part of

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a permanent settlement. By the way, I am the one who should be worried since if it is true that most of the people are opposed to a Golan withdrawal then the referendum will go against us and not the Golan residents or those opposed to a withdrawal, who are so sure that the people support them. If that is the case, why are they so worried?

Tzomet MK: Understanding Reached for Golan Withdrawal

TA2805105795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 28 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tzomet Knesset Member [MK] Moshe Peled said that Syria and Israel have formulated a document of understanding detailing the timetable for a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights back to the June 1967 borders. Peled asserted that the withdrawal would start at the beginning of 1996, with the first stage lasting three months. A meeting would then be held between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and President Hafiz al-Asad. Peled was speaking to our correspondent Ilan Ro'e during a tour of the Golan Heights by the Tzomet faction.

Labor MK Ori Or, the chairman of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, reacted to the above by saying that he knew nothing about such a document. Or went on to note that there still is no majority among the Israeli public for the evacuation of the Golan Heights.

Rabin Says Talk of Referendum 'Premature'

TA2905111995 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 29 May 95

[Report by Knesset correspondent Hadar Vismonsky]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Speaking at today's meeting of the Labor Faction Executive, the prime minister made an effort to cool his colleagues' enthusiasm over the unfolding process with Syria. Any talk about a referendum is premature, Rabin pointed out in an attempt to convince the forum that the negotiations with the Syrians have not made any significant progress to date. The prime minister reiterated his commitment not to withdraw from a single inch of land without a referendum, as he put it.

The coalition is carrying out extensive preparations for the debate on the motions of no confidence in the government on the Jerusalem land confiscation freeze due to be held this afternoon.

After the vote, the coalition will engage in another fight, as the Likud plans to hold a marathon debate on the transfer of funds to the Palestinian Authority into the wee hours. [passage omitted]

The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today endorsed amendments to the Defense Service Law, to permit the army to employ servicemen in the police, the Shin Bet, and the Mosad. The law will be brought up soon for a third reading in the Knesset.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 29 May adds: "The prime minister is against submitting a referendum bill on the Golan issue to the Knesset at this time. He is furthermore opposed to the agreement achieved by Labor faction chairman Ra'anan Kohen with Golan lobbyists Qahalani, Zismann, and Shefi that would permit them to submit to the Knesset their bill requiring a special majority for a Golan Law amendment. Mr. Rabin announced this at a meeting with the faction executive today."]

Weizman: Even 'Symbolic' Withdrawal Requires Referendum

TA2905103795 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 29 May 95 pp 1, 19

[Report by Nahum Barne'a]

[FBIS Translated Text] "If the government intends to decide on a symbolic withdrawal, even from one single settlement on the Golan, it must first hold a referendum," President 'Ezer Weizman told YEDI'OT AHARONOT last night.

The president stressed that he supports Rabin's commitment to subject an agreement with Syria to a referendum. In his opinion, the government must first reach a comprehensive — rather than a "piecemeal" — arrangement with Syria. If an arrangement is reached it could be executed in stages, as was the treaty with Egypt, but the people must be presented with the overall arrangement.

The president believes that no withdrawal whatsoever, not even a symbolic one, should be carried out without the people first having its say. "If the government does not have a comprehensive plan, I am in favor of holding a referendum about each settlement," he said.

The president will meet this evening with a delegation of the Golan settlements and hear out their arguments.

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 29 May publishes on pages 1 and 2 a report by David Makovsky which adds: "Officials in the Prime Minister's Office admit that the idea of dismantling one Jewish settlement in the first phase of Golan withdrawal, which Rabin floated over the weekend, had been discussed with U.S. officials.

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["At the same time, they strongly deny that Israel has presented the idea in talks with Syria, but the U.S. may have forwarded the idea to Damascus as part of its mediation efforts. Apparently, Syria has insisted that Israel cede more than just Druze villages in the first phase of withdrawal."]

Beilin Reportedly Involved in al-Asad-Israeli Talks

TA2905092995 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 29 May 95

[Telephone interview with Gadi Sukenik, Israel Television Channel 1 political correspondent, by Razi Barqay; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Barqay] Today we heard direct denials of your report about talks with President al-Asad's nephew. Yosi Beilin has denied it, and so have others in the foreign minister's and prime minister's bureaus. Are you going to say they could be expected to issue denials because they cannot tell the truth?

[Sukenik] That is right. I had a great deal of bits and pieces of information about various meetings, which made certain sense, because I did not think negotiations with the Syrians could be entirely open, without any behind-the-scenes action. It goes against the grain of these people, the same people who once surprised us with the Oslo accords and the secret negotiations that preceded them.

The report we aired yesterday was solid and true, and I doubt there have been any other Israeli-Syrian meetings on a serious level besides the meetings with President al-Asad's nephew. All the involved people can be expected to deny it, as you and I would have done.

[Barqay] Have you seen any official government documents?

[Sukenik] No, but I have spoken to people who participated in the meetings. These people, who had denied the meetings for a long time, were serious this time. They were the ones who supplied me with the facts we broadcast last night. This time it is true.

[Barqay] Who did participate?

[Sukenik] I could not divulge names yesterday, and I still cannot. Anyone who wishes to come forward and be identified can do so either now or in future; however, one man who does know, a man who followed the meetings and possibly organized their minutes is Yosi Beilin. [passage omitted]

[Barqay] The most convincing argument used by those who denied the meetings was their saying that Faris al-Asad is not a man of consequence.

[Sukenik] People who participated in the meetings told me that, first of all, he is a serious and impressive member of the al- Asad family. Second, they told me with absolute certainty that he has a direct connection to the ruling court, that his participation had been sanctioned by the authorities, and that he undoubtedly relayed the entire information to President al-Asad.

Now, I heard that Israeli opposition activists claim these meetings resulted in various papers and accords, but that is not it. The sides had no authority to draw up official documents. All they did was raise ideas and convey their impressions to their respective sides, in order to fuel future official negotiations conducted, as we know, in Washington. [passage omitted]

Ministers Attack Peres Remarks on Golan, Syria

TA2805133995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 28 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The cabinet did not discuss the negotiations with Syria today. Following the meeting, Ministers Tzur and Shetrit sharply attacked Foreign Minister Peres' remarks that the Golan Heights belong to the Syrians.

Minister Shetrit told our political correspondent Shlomo Raz that the foreign minister acted with intellectual dishonesty and serious the depth of the withdrawal will depend on the type of security arrangements.

Construction and Housing Minister Ben-Eli'ezer said in response to a question that his ministry is not planning additional investments on the Golan Heights because there is already a surplus of building there.

The cabinet will reconvene on Wednesday to discuss the water issue, among other issues, and will take leave of Shim'on Sheves, the outgoing director general of the Prime Minister's Office. At today's meeting, Tzvi Alderoti's appointment as Sheves replacement was approved.

Shahal on Syrian Process Difficulties, Separation Plan

TA2605101295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 26 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal says the negotiations with Syria will be slow, with small steps forward and many steps backward. If an agreement is achieved on security arrangements, it will be possible to turn to other serious problems such as the depth of withdrawal and the nature of peace. Our correspondent Yo'av Ya'aqov reports that Minister Shahal held a meeting in Yafo this morning with EU ambassadors, and updated them on political issues, routine security

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problems, and the separation plan which was submitted to the government.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0905 GMT on 26 May includes an interview with Minister Shahal by correspondent Yo'av Aviv. Asked whether Israel is seeking European financial aid to implement the separation plan, Shahal says: "There is no point in doing so. The Europeans are misers and will not provide any funds for this purpose."]

Possibility of Uprooting Elrom Settlement Discussed

TA2705132595 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0700 GMT 27 May 95

[Studio talk between moderator 'Adi Talmor and correspondent Sefi Hendler]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Talmor] The prime minister's bombshell about the possible uprooting of a settlement during the interim stage with Syria did not refer to a Druze settlement did it?

[Hendler] No, if it had been a Druze settlement, he would have used the expression, returning it to Syria, but he referred specifically to the evacuation of an Israeli settlement. The big question is which settlement is it. The Golan settlers claim that it is Kibbutz Elrom at the northeastern end of the plateau situated under Mount Hermon. There have already been reports about the possibility that Elrom might be evacuated within the framework of a settlement with Syria.

[Talmor] When could it take place?

[Hendler] That is perhaps the innovation in the prime minister's remarks. It is not the first time Yitzhaq Rabin has talked about uprooting settlements on the Golan. The innovation is that it refers to the evacuation of an Israeli settlement in the first stage of the arrangement with the Syrians: a three-year stage involving a symbolic withdrawal aimed at testing the seriousness of Syria's intentions. That is definitely a change in Israel's official stand.

[Talmor] Why did Rabin elect to bring it up now? Is it linked to the agreement on the security principles reached with the Syrians?

[Hendler] Political sources in Jerusalem say the timing is linked to Rabin's internal problems. He wants to prepare the public for a possible withdrawal on the Golan. At the same time, they link the progress in the negotiations with the Syrians to the resumption of the officers' talks.

[Talmor] What does the Likud say about it all?

[Hendler] The Likud Bureau will convene in emergency session on the Golan to decide how to act in the wake of the prime minister's remarks. Likud Bureau Chairman 'Uzi Landau said that the Rabin policy is a stab in the Zionist and security back of Israel. All the achievements made by thousands of our soldiers in the battlefield are being wasted by Rabin at the negotiating table.

[Talmor] But, beyond words, the Likud cannot do anything since Rabin enjoys a blocking majority in the Knesset.

[Hendler] That is correct. The prime minister has a majority of 61 Knesset members [MK's].

[Talmor] To conclude, what is Shim'on Peres doing in Morocco?

[Hendler] Peres is spending Saturday in Morocco on his way to the United States. He arrived there with MK Rafi Edri prior to the Sabbath. Edri is the one who cooked up the visit. He was in Morocco 10 days ago in the wake of the Jerusalem land crisis. Edri and Peres dined with King Hassan last night. The king will meet PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat who will arrive in Rabat tomorrow, and then a trilateral Peres-Hassan-'Arafat meeting is expected. Jerusalem views the Peres visit as the answer to the canceled Casablanca Arab summit meeting, which had been planned over the land seizures affair. Peres wants to settle misunderstandings with Morocco.

Ben-Eli'ezer: Agreement of Principles Possible in '96

TA2705145795 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0700 GMT 27 May 95

[Telephone interview with Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer by 'Adi Talmor; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Talmor] When are you going to start dismantling Israeli settlements on the Golan Heights, as Ari'el Sharon did in Yamit?

[Ben-Eli'ezer, laughing] I have the feeling that we are racing ahead too quickly. I am not trying to spoil the optimistic atmosphere in the wake of favorable indications that things are moving ahead, but I still think we are a long way from making decisions to dismantle settlements.

[Talmor] Golan settlers are sure that everything is sewn up.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] That is a scene that keeps repeating itself. I must admit, however, that for the first time I have a feeling that a change has taken place, that al-Asad has

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decided finally to go for serious negotiations in order to truly reach a settlement.

[Talmor] What about Rabin? Has he decided on a full withdrawal from the Golan?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I am not going to represent Rabin. He does that well enough himself. But, if there is one thing that concerns the entire government and the person who heads it, it is security.

[Talmor] But do you, like Shim'on Peres, believe that the price for peace with Syria is no less than the price paid to Egypt: To give up every single centimeter?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I must say I cannot rule out the logic of the Peres formula. It is definitely unpleasant, but if somebody deludes himself into thinking that there is a different way or that the other side will suffice with receiving a peace greeting, he is simply mistaken. We must be aware that this peace is so important that the price we will have to pay will be great. In other words, my basic position is that it is best for us if we sit up there to assure our existence. The more we are pushed into a corner, the more I would like to see better security arrangements to make sure that if we are forced to withdraw from every single centimeter our security situation will be maximal.

[Talmor] Are you prepared to take the risk of assessing when a peace accord with Syria will be achieved?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I am no prophet. You can ask me when I would like it to happen. I think that all the conditions are ripe and if we begin to sit in the coming weeks on security arrangements at the senior military level, then for me it means that we are starting to talk business. I believe that technically it can be said that we could find ourselves with an agreement of principles in early 1996. [passage omitted]

U.S. Said To Send Message on Cutoff Treaty

TA2905131195 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 May 95 p A12

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Senior political sources have reported that, for the time being, Israel will not respond to the U.S. proposal to launch discussions on a treaty calling for a halt in the production of fissionable materials for nuclear weapons. The United States has delivered a stern message to Israel demanding that it participate in talks on an international treaty, currently being formulated, that will ban the production of plutonium and enriched uranium for nuclear weapons.

Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri, chairman of the Israeli steering committee to the multilateral arms control talks, will meet in Helsinki today with Mr. Robert Einhorn, the State Department official in charge of arms control in the Middle East. 'Ivri will ask Einhorn to clarify the U.S. policy with regard to the various aspects of arms control, following the unlimited extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Just prior to the meeting, the U.S. Administration sent a conciliatory message to Israel stating that Washington has no intention of pressuring Israel to stop producing fissionable materials and explaining that this is a long-term initiative. [passage omitted]

Meretz Merger, Internal Elections Viewed

TA2605111895 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 May 95 p B2

[Report by Rubik Rosenthal]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] There is tacit agreement among Meretz leaders to begin merging its three components into one single party after the 1996 elections. Few people believed when Meretz was born that there would be such broad agreement on the merger so early in the faction's history. MAPAM [United Workers Party] has undergone a major transformation in this sense. It had maintained a 20-year-long alignment with Labor without giving up its autonomous institutions, and it emerged as whole as it had been, albeit much smaller. After the alliance was disbanded, the two MAPAM groups that had always promoted an alliance with Labor became the promoters of an independent MAPAM and waged a struggle against the Meretz merger. This group consists of Histadrut activists headed by Efrayim Zielony and of what the National Kibbutz Movement dubbed the "Valleys Group." Both groups have almost disappeared from the arena. Today there is an almost total agreement in Meretz that Meretz should consolidate.

Shinuy, the party's rightmost element, is vacillating on the merger issue. Shinuy joined Meretz as a three-member faction, but some of its members still dream of a centrist party which, they believe, is better suited for the spirit of Shinuy. Yoram Alster, a former Bezek chairman and a private businessman today, is convinced this is the right way, although he admits he is in minority. "As a consolidated party, Meretz will be a left-wing Israeli party in every sense; Shinuy, however, has never defined itself as a left- wing party. By abandoning the center of the political map, Shinuy would be creating a vacuum, and I do not think people disappointed in Labor would go as far as to vote for Meretz. True liberals have no representation today."

Amnon Rubinstein believes the debate is legitimate, but he is for going on with the process of consolidating

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Meretz. "When Meretz was established, we were expected to become a three-headed calf with no chances of survival. That was why Shinuy demanded a freedom of vote on economic issues, a prerogative it has not used even once. We have all changed. CRM [Citizens Rights Movement] has become more moderate, MAPAM has a better understanding of the principles of the new socioeconomic reality, and Shinuy has embraced a growing variety of social tenets. Today Meretz is a solid, united body, with good personal relations among the leaders."

CRM has no hesitations about the merger. CRM is the backbone of Meretz and seen as its popular part. No one doubts today that the movement chairman will be a CRM member; the present time seems to be the transition period in this sense. Few people even among Shulamit Aloni's staunchest supporters believe she will be able to defeat Yosi Sarid in a race for Meretz leadership expected to be held in January 1996, a race in which all registered party members will participate. Today the CRM leadership seems to be moving on two axes: Aloni and No'omi Hazan on the one hand, Yosi Sarid, CRM Secretary General Zehava Gal'on, and Ornan Yequti'eli, the Jerusalem Municipality councilman for CRM, on the other. There is even talk of a middle axis headed by Ran Kohen and Beni Temkin, an axis created by a majority of the Meretz activists but one that is not connected by an umbilical cord to either of the two leaders. The Meretz Executive Committee, which was elected about a month ago, is composed of the Knesset members [MK's] and of 10 others; the Sarid camp does not have a majority in the latter group. Temkin: "In general terms, this description of the situation is accurate. Today the CRM is not a camp with two people vying against each other, but a whole movement made up of thinking people who maintain their independence. There are people who support Yosi, although they find that their stands are closer to Shula's [Aloni]. Things will come to a crux before the race for party chairmanship, but later, when primaries are held before the Knesset elections, every MK will have to take care of himself under the new system, and this whole business of camps will have very little impact."

On 24 May the Meretz Council endorsed a new system for the election of candidates for party leadership and the Knesset. Victor Balit, Meretz director general and MAPAM secretary general, says: "We have established a parity committee and put in a lot of thought, because we did not think much of the Labor system of holding primaries without party control. There is no such system in any European country. Since we are likewise opposed to having an arranging committee, we suggested a mixed system." Under the mixed system, which was endorsed by a vast majority of the party council, the first 30 Meretz candidates will be selected according to party key: 15 from CRM, nine from MAPAM, six from Shinuy. Each party will present a panel elected within its central institution; Meretz members will then select the representatives of all the parties presented at the panel and rank them in accordance with party key. How will this method reconcile with the resolution to guarantee representation? Some people think the combination is unfeasible. MK Hazan believes the problem will be solved by the need to mark candidates in the primaries.

There will be a census, in which Meretz will introduce an innovation: registered members aged 16 and over. Those who are registered members at the time of the census will be counted automatically. This is where MAPAM will flaunt its rich dowry: 20,000 registered members, compared with CRM's 5,000 and Shinuy's 1,500 or so. Anyone registering before the end of December will be able to participate in primaries for party leadership, while those who join by the end of May will be able to elect candidates for MK's. Meretz hopes for 70,000 registered members. The panel system creates a problem for new members who will seek to run for the Knesset, and they will be asked, therefore, through which party they are joining. And after the elections, Meretz will become one party, if the move is endorsed by the parties' central institutions.

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Government Bans Opposition's Anti-Israel Meeting

JN2905125295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1005 GMT 29 May 95

[From the "With the Midday Events" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] In Amman, Jordanian authorities have banned the opposition from holding a conference that opposes the Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty. This came after the authorities learned that the statement which was supposed to be issued at the end of the conference contains paragraphs violating the Jordanian law. Our correspondent Yosi Mesher has the following report:

[Begin Mesher recording] The Jordanian Government banned Jordanian opposition parties from holding a conference that opposes Israel and the Israeli-Palestinian peace treaty that was scheduled to be held in Amman this morning.

A senior Jordanian official said that the Jordanian authorities' decision to ban this conference was made after they had learned about the contents of the final statement of the conference. He noted that some of this statement's paragraphs violate Jordanian law. The Jordanian official said that the statement abuses the Palestinian Authority [PA], which is considered an interference in the other country's affairs. Moreover, the statement accuses the PA and Jordan of surrendering to Israel.

Since this morning, the Jordanian police spread out in the area where the conference was scheduled to be held and banned its organizers and participants from entering the hall. Moreover, the police dispersed a march staged by around 500 people on an Amman streets to protest the Jordanian authorities' decision to ban the conference. [end recording]

This conference, which the 11 opposition parties that represent the Islamic and leftist currents called for, was scheduled to be held at the University of Jordan in Amman with the participation of 550 people to protest the signing of the Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty.

Newspapers, which represent the opposition in Jordan, published the main resolutions which were to be included in the conference's final statement. These resolutions mainly call for:

1. Rejecting and condemning the Israeli-Palestinian peace treaty.

2. Rejecting a proposal to establish a joint Middle Eastern market.

3. Opposing normalization between Israel and Arab countries, especially Jordan.

It is noteworthy that the 11 opposition parties — which organized this conference under the slogan: The popular Jordanian conference for the protection of the homeland and confrontation of normalization — are represented by 23 out of 80 members of the Jordanian Parliament. The opposition deputies voted against signing the peace treaty with Israel, which was concluded in October 1994.

The conference was scheduled to be held at a time when the Jordanian Parliament is preparing to meet shortly to pave the way for cancelling laws that conflict with the peace treaty with Israel.

Official Jordanian media today made no reference to the abovementioned conference and the Jordanian Government's decision to ban it. Meanwhile, Syrian media organs were yesterday quick to report the news on the conference.

'Source' on Reasons for Ban

JN2905161195 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A responsible source has stressed the government's insistence on protecting democracy, responsible freedom, and the freedom of expression. He also stressed the government's concern about not allowing any encroachment upon the homeland's constants by any party under any pretext.

The source said that permission was given to hold a meeting that was called by some who advocated it as a conference to protect the homeland and confront normalization. The fact that permission was given expresses the democratic trend in Jordan, which stems from the Constitution and the charter and is also based on the laws governing such issues.

The source added that, as officials have noted, however, those in charge of holding this conference went beyond the objective of such a meeting. The final statement was prepared before the conference was held. It contained clearly provocative statements against this dear homeland, its institutions, and its achievements. The final statement also fabricated lies about the efforts of this homeland's sons and about the sacrifices of their valiant Arab Army on each inch of the land of Palestine and the walls of Jerusalem.

The source went on to say that those in charge of this conference tried to attribute the national struggle to other parties with known positions. Moreover, earlier statements prepared before the holding of this conference call for sedition, which is worse than killing, and are characterized by reversing facts, showing one-upmanship, and agitating against the security and sta-

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bility that characterize this homeland. They also slander the history of the Jordanian people, as well as their Hashemite leadership and its struggle and sacrifices for Palestine and the Arab and Islamic nations.

The source added: These prior statements exploited democracy in order to encroach upon democracy. They also exploited freedom in order to encroach upon the freedom of others. The source said: Stemming from its constitutional responsibilities and out of its commitment to safeguard the homeland's security and protect its democracy and freedoms, the government — while opening every avenue for dialogue — announces that it will not allow any encroachment upon laws and stability or tampering with the destiny of the homeland and its citizens.

Therefore, the government has decided not to allow this conference to convene in order to protect the national fabric and defend the homeland's true image, the source said.

Opposition Leader Views Ban

NC2905195495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 May 95

[Report by Mohammad Beshkar in Beirut]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Jordanian authorities today banned Islamic and nationalist opposition parties from holding a popular conference against the Zionist enemy which was scheduled to take place in Amman this morning.

The Jordanian Government, which earlier had licensed the conference, justified the ban by saying that the final statement that was to be issued contains violations of the law. The conference's preparatory committee yesterday published the draft final statement. It rejects the peace treaty between the Jordanian Government and the Zionist enemy, emphasizes the people's right to struggle to foil the negative and serious consequences of the treaty, and calls for an honor convention to fight normalization in every political, cultural, economic, and trade area.

For further information on today's developments, we contacted Dr. Ishaq al-Farhan, secretary general of the Jordanian Islamic Action Front [IAF], who said:

[Begin recording] [al-Farhan] After placing many obstacles in the way of the popular conference for the protection of the homeland and confrontation of normalization, the government finally agreed for the conference to be held. But at 0400 today, after the call for dawn prayers, we were surprised to hear the administrative ruler, the governor of the capital, telling us that the conference had been banned. We had already invited hundreds of personalities — about 1,000 figures. We consider the decision undemocratic. We used all democratic means. We went to the conference site but the security forces prevented us from entering the hall, and they prevented people from gathering. So the conference was not held.

We consider this an attack on democracy, on legitimacy, and on opposing views — the people's views on the need to confront normalization and the parties' right to enlighten citizens about what is going on. Nevertheless, we insist on holding the conference in the future, God willing, by all means, in the right place and at the right time. We consider this a right of our masses and our nation. The opposition parties must have their say within the scope of valid laws and the democratic process.

[Beshkar] Dr. al-Farhan, were there any arrests?

[Al-Farhan] There have been no arrests so far, but some individuals, such as Engineer 'Ali Abu-al-Sukkar, the IAF chairman in al-Zarqa', and student Ahmad al-Sharqawi, a member of the administrative committee of the Student Union at the Science and Technology University, were attacked. So far, we have not received any other complaints. But these things are limited, thank God, and we were eager to calm the crowd so that there would be no bloody confrontations. [end recording]

'Much-Delayed' Meeting Canceled Again

JN2905143395 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29 May 95 pp 7, 12

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sa'idah al-Kilani]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman — Opposition groups in the Kingdom today hold a much-delayed conference that aims at a unified stand to fight what they see as dangers of normalizing relations with Israel.

More than 600 people are expected to attend the event that will take place at al-Nukhbah, a previous car showroom, just opposite the University of Jordan. Organisers of the event say the venue was agreed upon with the government as a compromise in order to hold their conference, formerly planned to take place at the professional Unions Complex in al-Shumaysani.

There will be no participation of groups or individuals from neighbouring Arab countries — Syria, Lebanon and Egypt — as previously planned. Organisers say they were not sure when the conference would be finally held.

Organisers expect the event to be a success despite differences among opposition parties and groups over the definition of normalisation and over ways of fighting it.

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According to the spokesperson of the Islamic Action Front party, Muhammad 'Uwaydah, the 11 opposition parties meet on a minimum set of rules which are "sufficient."

"Our conference is going to be the message that expresses the opinion of the majority and the conscience of the people," said Mr. 'Uwaydah, a member at the Lower House of Parliament. "We certainly have our differences but we meet on solid common grounds."

Ya'qub Zayadin, secretary general of the communist party, seconded Mr. 'Uwaydah, but stressed that differences in objectives and policies should not be forgotten.

"We (the opposition parties) don't have one unified opinion vis-a-vis peace with Israel," said Mr. Zayadin. "We (the Communist Party) certainly approve of a peaceful settlement with Israel but not one like those reached by governments. The treaties signed were unjust and normalisation is unjust. [no close quotation marks as published]

Taysir al-Zibri, secretary general of the Jordanian Democratic People's Party, said the opposition parties want peace between the Arabs and Israeli to be similar to that between Israel and Egypt "where relations between the two countries after two decades are stagnant and have even reached to the level of confrontation."

"We don't believe that we would be able to abort the treaty nor to wipe out all what happened in one stroke...but we surely benefit from the Egyptian experience," said Mr. al-Zibri.

Former Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat, recently known for his audacious and outspoken stand against the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty will be one of the key speakers at the one-day event.

The conference, entitled "the national popular conference for protecting the nation and combatting normalisation," will also be attended by prominent politicians and parliamentary deputies known for their opposition to peace with Israel. Prominent clergymen and representatives of the Christian churches in the country are also invited.

Also scheduled to participate are representatives of "opposition parties, professional associations, women movements, tribal leaders, professors, teachers, students, trade unionists, journalists and writers as well as representatives of the Arab Organisation for Human Rights-Jordan branch. The organisers also invited two other political parties: al-Mustaqbal and al-Watan. [no close quotation marks as published]

According to the organizers, the conference is financed by the opposition parties themselves and by donations from individuals. The conference will be chaired by two committees, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Apart from the speeches and discussions, the participants are expected to adopt a pre-prepared charter that calls for boycotting commercial and cultural dealings with Israel.

The government had rejected a demand made by the 11 opposition parties to hold the conference on April 28. The parties sent cables of protest and pleas to Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd bin-Shakir and held a press conference last week in which they threatened to hold the conference without the government's official approval. However the government later reversed its decision and granted them permission to hold the conference on condition that it be held at al-Nukhbah hall instead of the Professional Unions Complex, and implied that it would not favour the attendance of participants from other Arab countries, sources close to the parties said.

Government Mourns Killing of Bosnian Minister

JN2805194795 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 28 May 95

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jordan condemned the killing of the Bosnian Foreign Minister Irfan Ljubijankic. Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir sent a cable of sympathy to the Bosnian Prime Minister, Haris Silajdzic.

Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti said the Bosnian minister was killed as a result of a vicious act in a series of terrorist actions committed by the Serb forces against civilians and UN troops. Al-Kabariti called for further measures to put an end to the Serb aggression and to the tragic situation to which civilians have been subjected in Bosnia.

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Syria's al-Asad Congratulates al-Hariri

NC2605180295 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 26 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a telephone call with Prime Minister al-Hariri at noon today, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad wished al- Hariri success now that he has formed the new government. He reiterated Syria's support and backing for every effort that promotes the march for stability in Lebanon.

Syria's al-Shar' Meets al-Hirawi, Comments

NC2905121995 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' is currently meeting at B'abda Palace with President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, who joined the meeting 15 minutes after al-Shar' arrived at the Presidential Palace. Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, who accompanied minister al-Shar' from al-Masna' border point to B'abda, is also attending the meeting.

The Syrian foreign minister will brief President al-Hirawi and speaker Birri on the results of the current developments relating to the negotiating process and the truth of reports on possible progress in these negotiations. He will also brief them on his recent talks with the U.S. Administration, which involved a meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton. He will explain in particular what he sensed regarding the status of the occupied Lebanese territories in the south through his talks with the U.S. side and the security arrangements between Syria and Israel.

Al-Shar' and his delegation arrived at the border point of al- Masna' at 1105 today. He was received by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and Ambassador Ramiz Dimashqiyah. After a band of the Internal Security Forces accorded minister al-Shar' a salute, he made a statement in which he pointed out that he is carrying a message to his excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi from his brother his excellency President Hafiz al-Asad on the developments in the peace process. Afterwards, the two ministers proceeded to B'abda Palace to meet with President al-Hirawi.

Going back to the talks that Syrian Foreign Minister al-Shar' held with President al-Hirawi, at the conclusion al-Shar' stressed the need for a fair and comprehensive peace. Let us hear what minister al-Shar' said:

[Begin recording] [al-Shar'] I have conveyed a message from his excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to his brother his excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi relating to the developments in the peace process in light of the results of my visit to Washington. I can say that the Syrian and Lebanese leaderships are in constant consultation. There is complete understanding regarding the peace process and the future steps to serve the national interests of both countries.

[Unidentified correspondent] There is U.S. talk on steps that may bring about qualitative progress and there are Syrian remarks that not much has been achieved. Could you brief us where the peace process is? To what extent is talk of progress true?

[Al-Shar'] The framework of understanding that has been reached is a step that requires implementation by the military experts of the two countries. Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator of the peace process, will arrive in the region next week. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will come to the region one week later. They will discuss in Syria and Israel the preparations for the meeting of the military experts in Washington before the end of June with the participation of the United States.

[Correspondent] Does the agreement on the meeting of the military experts mean that Israel has accepted the principles of balanced security arrangements on both sides of the borders?

[Al-Shar'] The framework of understanding stemmed from these principles. What is important is that these principles or this agreed upon understanding must be implemented by the military experts. When Syria insisted that the military experts not begin working out the arrangements, Syria based its stance on the assumption that such haste in bringing the military experts of both countries together without the existence of a work guide, principles, or rules to enable the two sides to rely on to implement the arrangements may create a major problem and differences between the military experts. In our view, this might result in placing new obstacles in the way of the peace process. Syria's adherence to a framework of understanding and arrangements based on an agreed upon principles will facilitate this process.

[Correspondent] Will progress on the Syrian-Israeli track allow the talks between Lebanon and Israel to resume?

[Al-Shar'] Certainly. There is clear understanding between the Syrian and Lebanese leaderships that the peace process is linked and will go in tandem on the Syrian and Lebanese fronts. The two tracks will not be separated. Fortunately, during my visit to Washington I sensed that the U.S. party understands this situation. There is no longer any doubts that when the peace

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process makes progress it will advance in tandem on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. Thank you. [end recording]

Comments on Peace Process

JN2905173195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi received [Syrian] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in the B'abda Palace this afternoon.

Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz attended the meeting.

Al-Shar' conveyed a message from His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to his brother His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi on the latest developments in the peace process in light of al-Shar's visit to Washington. This visit comes within the framework of the constant consultations between the two fraternal countries, Syria and Lebanon.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' answered questions from the press at B'abda Palace at the end of his meeting with President al-Hirawi, which was attended by Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri and Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz.

Al-Shar' said: I conveyed a message from His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to his brother His Excellency Ilyas al- Hirawi on the developments in the peace process in light of the results of my visit to Washington. I can say that within the framework of constant consultations between the leaderships in Syria and Lebanon, there is complete understanding on the peace process and the subsequent steps to serve the national interests of both countries.

In reply to a question about the progress achieved in the peace negotiations in light of the U.S. announcement that a qualitative step has taken place, al-Shar' said: The framework of understanding that was reached is a step that needs to be implemented by the two countries' military experts.

He added that Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator for the peace process, will arrive in the region next week. A week later, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will also visit the region. They will discuss, in both Syria and Israel, the preparations for the meeting of military experts that will be held before the end of June in Washington, with the participation of the United States.

Answering a question on whether agreeing to the meeting of military experts means that Israel has accepted the principle of parallel [mutawaziyah] security arrangements on both sides of the border, the foreign minister said: The set of understandings stems from these principles. What is important is that these principles or this agreed-upon understanding should be implemented by the military experts. When Syria insisted that military experts not hasten to work out arrangements on the ground, Syria based its stance on the fact that such haste in bringing the military experts of both countries together without the existence of work guidelines, principles, or rules on which the two sides can rely to implement the arrangements, may create a major dispute between the military experts. In our view, this might result in placing new obstacles in the way of the peace process. Syria's adherence to a framework of understanding and arrangements based on agreed-upon principles will facilitate this process.

Answering a question on whether the progress announced on the Syrian-Israeli track will allow a resumption of negotiations on the Lebanese-Israeli track, al-Shar' said: Certainly, there is a clear understanding between the Syrian and Lebanese leaders that the Syrian and Lebanese tracks go hand in hand and are inseparable. Fortunately, I sensed this understanding on the part of the United States during my visit to Washington. There is no longer any doubt that when the peace process advances, it will advance in tandem on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi hosted a luncheon this afternoon in the honor of Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. The luncheon was attended by Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz.

Foreign Minister al-Shar' returned to Damascus this evening. He was seen off at the Lebanese-Syrian border point by Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and senior Foreign Ministry officials.

Al-Hirawi Decrees Further Duties to State Minister

NC2605175195 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 26 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This evening, President Ilyas al-Hirawi issued Decree no. 6813. It entrusts Minister of State Nadim Salim with the duties of minister of state for parliamentary affairs.

Fadlallah: 'No One Rejoiced' About New Government

NC2605175395 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 26 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In his Friday sermon, 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah asked about the mechanism the government will adopt to realize economic

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projects and resolve labor problems. He wondered about the reasons for the resignation of the previous government and the subsequent reinstatement of the same team. He said: One government went and no one felt it because people are busy trying to secure bread and milk for their children. A new government came and no one rejoiced about it.

Fadlallah Says New Ministers Selected by U.S. Envoy

NC2705062595 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 27 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah asked about the reasons that triggered the resignation of the former government and that brought about the same team. He also asked about the mechanism the new government will use to achieve the economic projects and resolve the labor problems.

Fadlallah asked why the government succumbed to the U.S. veto and allowed the U.S. charge d'affaires to select the ministers in the new cabinet. He added: We suspect that what really happened is that the ministerial formation was first submitted to the U.S. charge d'affaires before it was signed by the president and published in the press.

Hizballah Scholars, Others Comment on New Government

NC2705073895 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 27 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In their sermons, Friday's prayer imams dealt with the political developments on the domestic front, particularly the new formation of the al-Hariri government. They all called on the ministers to support the people. The speakers condemned U.S. interference in Lebanese affairs. [passage omitted]

Muhammad Yazbik, a member of Hizballah's Consultative Council, said: On the basis of our views and logic we believed that it would not have been in Hizballah's interest to take part in this government. Shaykh Yazbik added that the U.S. Administration's pressure on the government to exclude Hizballah's participation is an unacceptable interference in domestic affairs. Shaykh Yazbik noted that Hizballah is the one entitled to talk about Lebanon and not the U.S. President, the holder of a U.S.-Zionist identity. Yazbik pointed out that if the United States possesses weapons and military power, we ourselves have the power of faith. He added: We will not allow anyone belonging to the global arrogance to interfere in our affairs or interests.

For his part, Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli said that there is no (?objection) to participating in the parliamentary and municipal elections if this would allow the Islamists to assume their positions despite the existing authority. But any participation in [word indistinct] authority must be studied meticulously and comprehensively, al-Tufayli added.

Shaykh al-Tufayli lashed out at the opponents of the authority who are seeking to assume ministerial portfolios. He asked: How can these explain their contradictory stands and the change of their status from opponents to proponents? What happened to their statements that called for changing the situation? He said that all stands have changed in one week. Shaykh al-Tufayli affirmed that the new council of ministers does not represent us nor does it represent the oppressed, which are the majority of the Lebanese people.

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir Qabalan, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, said that nobody should hasten to judge the new government. He urged all Lebanese to wait for the results. Shaykh Qabalan noted that his friendship with this government has nothing to do with the contents of its policy statement, but with what the government's performance will be. He called on the new ministers to solve the living problems before any others. [passage omitted]

Environment Minister Mughayzil Dies From Heart Attack

NC2905122095 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Environment Minister Joseph Mughayzil died from a heart attack this morning while riding in his car after doing his daily physical exercise. The Chamber of Deputies declared Wednesday and Thursday days of mourning.

Our correspondent reported that the Chamber's scheduled session this week for a vote of confidence in the government was postponed until next week. [passage omitted]

Bomb Blast Leaves 2 People Wounded in Security Zone

NC2805104395 Paris AFP in English 1001 GMT 28 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Marjayoun, Lebanon, May 28 (AFP)—A bomb exploded inside the Israeli-occupied security zone in south Lebanon on Sunday [28 May] wounding a Lebanese woman and a pro-Israeli militiaman, the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia said.

The blast occured near an SLA position in the village square of Beit Lif, a small community in the western sector of the Israeli zone.

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The SLA blamed the Iranian-backed Hezbollah for the bombing.

On Saturday Hezbollah, which spearheads anti-Israeli operations in south Lebanon, claimed attacks on Israeli and SLA positions inside the zone which left no casualties.

A Lebanese teenager was wounded Saturday by Israeli artillery fire.

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Israel Warned of 'Provocative' Visits to Golan

JN2805141995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 28 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Occupied Golan — Our kinsfolk in the occupied Syrian Golan have warned Binyamin Netanyahu, leader of the Likud Bloc, and other Israeli officials against paying provocative visits to the occupied Golan.

A statement distributed by our kinsfolk in the occupied Golan last night reminded Netanyahu of a past visit by the then opposition leader Shim'on Peres, and how he was driven away from Majdal Shams under a volley of stones.

The statement added that the Syrian Arab citizens in the Golan take pride in their affiliation with motherland Syria and cling to the Golan's return to Syria, and that they will confront any Israeli official entering their villages.

Press Urges Positive Israeli Position in Washington

JN3005090095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 30 May 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial, AL-BA'TH discusses the need for full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. It notes that peace cannot be achieved without Syria because Syria has the key to peace in the region. The paper stresses that the firmness of the Syrian position serves peace and those who support the peace steps.

The paper adds: Those who supported and aided Israel now acknowledge that Syria is serious about making peace and insists on having a peace that can last and is not just a transitional event.

The paper says the statements that coincided with the U.S. announcement on the resumption of the peace talks in Washington made it clear that the entire world responds favorably to the peace requirements, such as the security arrangements and others, to which Syria adhered because such a position strengthens the conditions of permanent peace in the region and the Mediterranean basin, which is directly influenced by that region.

TISHRIN says: Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has acknowledged that the Golan Heights are occupied territory. He said: The Golan Heights are Syrian territory. We do not wish to continue to control that territory and we have no rights there.

The paper adds: Meanwhile, the Likud Party and Israeli settlers urge continued occupation and reject withdrawal. Our people in the Golan Heights have replied to the advocates of this fanatic, racist position. They stressed that the provocative tour which [Likud Party Leader] Netanyahu plans to make in the Golan Heights will be strongly opposed and that he will be received in a manner that befits usurpers and murderers. Our people in the Golan Heights also stressed that they will not allow any Israeli official to use the Golan to promote his political ideas and election interests because our land and rights are not open for election one-upmanship or the political contest to arrive to power.

TISHRIN stresses that the Israelis, from all political trends, realize that Syria is impregnable and that its positive response to the requirements and ingredients of the peace process confirms its true endeavor to arrive at a just and comprehensive peace that would return to each party its own rights and put an end to injustice, wars, and calamities.

On the same subject, AL-THAWRAH writes: The Syrian-Israeli talks will resume next month in Washington. These will be preceded by intensive moves and contacts by the U.S. sponsor in a bid to bridge the gap between the two parties and find the necessary factors to advance the peace process.

The paper welcomes any U.S. endeavor in this regard. The paper says Syria will not spare any effort to ensure the success of such an endeavor. Syria also hopes that next month's talks will be serious and fruitful and will yield substantive and tangible results that benefit the just and comprehensive peace.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that the arrival at positive results hinges on Israel, which must bring positive and constructive things to these talks and display enough courage to acknowledge Syria's right to regain the entire Golan Heights and to enable its citizens to return there. When Israel does that, the peace process will witness a great breakthrough and a real advance toward its specific goal.

Press: Recent Peace Moves 'Step in Right Direction'

JN2905064095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 29 May 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] TISHRIN comments on the steadfastness of our kinfolk in the occupied Golan Heights and their brave stand against the occupation and the Israeli leaders' provocative visits.

TISHRIN says: Our valiant kinfolk have made it clear that the Golan and its people have been Syrian since time immemorial and that their identity cannot be

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changed by the occupation. They have asserted that the Golan will return to the homeland sooner or later. The paper adds: The move of our kinfolk in the occupied Golan came after Zionist settlers, directly encouraged and sponsored by the Likud, called for holding clamorous gatherings against the Israeli withdrawal. Unhappy with the framework of understanding on security arrangements, the Likud considers that a prelude to withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines as demanded by Syria. The paper says that unleashing the Zionist settlers and paying provocative visits to the Golan aim at nothing but placing obstacles before the overall peace process and to turn the clock back.

TISHRIN stresses a Middle East peace without Syria is impossible and that Syria's participation in the peace process depends on Israel's full and comprehensive withdrawal and the return of the Syrian refugees to their homes in the Golan.

Concluding its editorial, the paper says: Our kinfolk in the Golan insist on stressing their determination to reject the occupation and expel its symbols. They are now determined more than ever to continue struggle and resist those who falsely claim the right to colonize the Golan and change its historical and geographical features. Above all, this shows that our kinfolk will remain Syrians and the Golan will remain Syrian, no matter how long the occupation may persist. Voicing its support for the kinfolk, Syria pledges to them that it will never relinquish an iota of its soil.

AL-BA'TH editorializes on the requirements of a real peace. It stresses that since the beginning of the peace process in Madrid, Syria has been stressing to all visitors that it supports any effort to achieve a just, comprehensive peace. The paper stresses that Syria seriously worked to advance the Washington talks, proceeding from its absolute faith in a genuine peace and its importance. Whoever talked to Syria about the peace issue has come to realize that Syria is right in its calls for a just, comprehensive peace, especially regarding its unwavering insistence on the need for commitment to the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle. When it rejected all attempts to circumvent the conditions and requirements of a just, comprehensive peace, Syria did so because it realized that separate and partial deals have nothing to do with real peace.

AL-BA'TH indicates that Israel used direct and indirect methods to change Syria's stand or make it budge from its policies. However, Syria's insistence on achieving a just, comprehensive peace in accordance with the resolutions of the international legitimacy and Syria's insistence on a comprehensive solution foiled Israel's attempts and bolstered Syria's position on Arab, regional, and international levels. Thus, broad support for Syria's positions has been voiced.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: What has been achieved is the outcome of strenuous effort and sound and careful consideration. It is a step in the right direction.

Radio: Golan To Return to Syria 'Sooner or Later'

JN2805161195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1138 GMT 28 May 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Israeli officials, whether those in the government or in the opposition, have taken turns at making statements, which sometimes agree or disagree, on the occupied Syrian Golan, withdrawal from it, the confines of peace, the extent of withdrawal, and other remarks which are now well known, if not worn out.

One official wants to hold a referendum among the settlers on withdrawal from the Golan; another was forced to acknowledge that the Golan is Syrian territory and that the Israeli settlers are living on Syrian territory. A third official promised full withdrawal from the Golan if he assumes power after the next elections, but he later denied saying so. A fourth official made ambiguous statements which did not have any clear features as part of a continuous game being played by the Israeli rulers as though matters were controlled only by them and as though things proceed only according to their will.

For our part, we assert to all these officials, on behalf of all people in the Golan who have expressed their position hundreds of times, that the Golan is not subject to bargaining, statements, or positions. The Israeli positions will not change the truth about the Golan whether at present or in the future.

The Golan is Syrian territory which sooner or later will return to its owners. The price of occupation will increase with the duration of occupation. The current regional peace process is only one of the gateways which the world is now entering in line with the international circumstances and out of respect for international legitimacy, its institutions, and world public opinion that acknowledges the legitimate return of the entire Golan to Syria down to the borders that existed prior to the 1967 Israeli aggression, so both this aggression and its results will be canceled, and the phenomenon of rewarding the aggressor for his aggression will end without any bargaining or compromises.

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Once again, we recall and emphasize that the agreements signed on more than one level will not be an example to be followed on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. If Israel really wants to save time, it should enter into the era of peace, along with us, from its wide door and in accordance with the bases of the peace process.

These bases should begin with complete and unconditional withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan according to an unequivocal equation that cannot have a dual interpretation, not to mention a wrong and rejected interpretation.

Our sons in the Golan have reemphasized their adherence to the national affiliation, land, and rights. They are today announcing that any world force cannot cancel the identity of a single Syrian citizen in the Golan.

Israel Must Take 'Practical' Steps To Enact Deal

JN2905150195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1135 GMT 29 May 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Certain indications, which can be described as positive signs for the peace process, have emerged following Washington's announcement that a Syrian-Israeli framework agreement on equitable [mutakafi'ah] security measures has been reached. However, at this time in particular, most Israeli officials have been making statements that could negatively affect the peace process.

Although Israeli Foreign Minister Peres has admitted that Israel is maintaining a presence on a Syrian land, that is, the Golan, Israeli officials still view the question of full withdrawal from this Syrian land a subject for debate and an area for political one- upmanship inside Israel, especially since the Israeli elections are drawing near.

Some of the old, but new, statements of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin are about conducting a popular plebiscite on withdrawal from the Golan or on any peace agreement with Syria. From a theoretical viewpoint, the second part can be understood since conducting a referendum on a peace treaty in any country is relevant. However, the first part is incomprehensible and unacceptable, both for Syria and every other country in the world. A plebiscite is usually conducted on a purely domestic issue and not on whether this country or that should return the land it has been occupying to its rightful owners.

We do not believe that such statements will facilitate the peace process or give it a push forward. On the contrary, these statements will reflect negatively on this process, especially since they are a part of a series of Israeli positions and statements that create doubts and suspicion regarding the credibility of the Israeli move toward peace.

It is of no importance to simply reach a framework of understanding on security arrangements. Rather, the important thing is an announcement by Israel that it will take practical steps to translate the framework of understanding into reality that will serve the peace process and contribute to laying the foundation stones of the edifice of a just and comprehensive peace.

It is well-known that the desired peace requires the willpower of both parties. On its part, Syria has exhibited a genuine desire for bringing about this peace according to the bases that were agreed upon by the international community — bases that were contained in crystal-clear resolutions. The other party, namely, Israel, should prove that it harbors good intentions. It is not sufficient for Peres to admit that the Golan is Syrian land, for this is a fact known by the entire world. The Israelis should take practical steps to return this Syrian land to its owners so that the peace process can effectively begin.

Now that we are approaching a new round of talks, all parties should work seriously to realize the goal sought by all the peoples of the region and the world. Going back to issues like conducting a plebiscite, upgrading the level of talks, or making ambiguous and pessimistic statements before any new round of talks will only delay the attainment of peace and place roadblocks along its path.

The current stage requires genuine intentions and serious action to make peace. When Israel meets the requirements of a just peace, the region will inevitably move toward a stage of peace we all seek.

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Afghanistan

Rabbani Interviewed on 'Difficulties,' Peace Moves

LD2705175295 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The press office of the presidency reported to BAKHTAR that Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, was interviewed yesterday by a correspondent of HAFT QALAM magazine, published in Herat Province.

Regarding the readiness of the Islamic State of Afghanistan to help find a political solution for Afghanistan, the esteemed president said that in order to find a solution for the existing difficulties, which are mainly created by foreign interference, Afghanistan has chosen the strategy of understanding and talks. The state is seeking to resolve the Afghan issue by political means and to hold talks with all the opposition forces. In reply to another question, the esteemed president said that now the situation is moving toward stability and improvement, a series of reform programs has commenced. The implementation of these programs requires the cooperation of well respected social, academic and cultural personalities, he said.

Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani went on to say that since the restoration of a satisfactory peace, we can say that a noticeable number of youths lay down their weapons and come to Kabul to continue their education at Kabul University. Large-scale activities are underway in most areas to accelerate the country's reconstruction activities.

German Foreign Ministry Delegation Pays Visit

Meets Foreign Affairs Ministers

LD2405220195 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Dr. Najibollah Lafra'i, minister of state for foreign affairs, and esteemed Abdorrahim Ghafurzai, deputy minister of foreign affairs, this morning met separately with Dr. Norbert Shaw, head of the South Asian section in the German Foreign Ministry, who is in Kabul at the head of a working delegation.

At this meeting esteemed Lafra'i recalled with appreciation the humanitarian assistance of friendly Germany. He spoke about the recent positive political developments which have resulted in the stability of the situation and the restoration of security in the capital.

Dr. Shaw spoke about the objectives of the delegation's visit and expressed his country's interest in the task of Afghanistan's reconstruction.

In his meeting with the German delegation, Esteemed Abdorrahim Ghafurzai spoke about the country's situation and appreciated the interest shown by international society, including Germany, in the positive developments in Afghanistan and in assisting the people of Afghanistan.

At these meetings, which were also attended by Mrs. Andeclyin Lech, a diplomat of the German Embassy in Kabul, talks were also held on a number of subjects of mutual interests between the two countries.

Meets Rabbani; 'Friendly' Ties Viewed

LD2705200295 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The press office of the presidency reported to BAKHTAR that esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan today received at Golkhana Palace Dr. Nortbelhoul, [Norbert Shaw] director of the South Asian section in the German Foreign Ministry and head of a German delegation.

At the beginning of their conversation, the esteemed president spoke about the history of cooperation, friendly relations between Afghanistan and Germany, the political situation and recent development in the country.

Esteemed Professor Rabbani said that the existing facts in Afghan society are totally inconsistent with the propaganda spread abroad against the people and the Islamic system of Afghanistan. Soon after the victory and gaining power in Afghanistan, the Islamic State of Afghanistan declared a general amnesty in the country, thus blocking all revengeful acts. This behavior and action may possibly be unprecedented in the world. [passage omitted]

The president went on to say that on the basis of the past friendship and cooperation between Afghans and Germans, the people and the state expect our German friends to open their embassy in Kabul. as peace and security prevail in kabul and throughout the country. We hope to extend the limit of cooperation between the two countries in various fields, including the struggle against narcotic substances.

The head of the German delegation expressed appreciation for the warm welcome extended to him and his delegation. [passage omitted]

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Agrees To Help in Police Matters

LD2805173495 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Federal Republic of Germany will help the Ministry of Internal Affairs with criminal technical equipment, as well as sending students and officers to Germany and the revival and strengthening of the police.

A BAKHTAR military correspondent reported to us that these matters were discussed today in a meeting between Lieutenant General Qarabeg Ezedyar, deputy minister of internal affairs [name and title as heard], and (Karl Almehr), the head of the German police delegation. The two sides held talks about the further equipping of the Afghan police by the German police.

Similarly, the German delegation today met with [name indistinct] Naseri, general commander of police and gendarmery, and Gol Nabi Ahmadzai, head of education of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. [passage omitted]

Official, Iranian Envoy Discuss Aid, Refugees

LD2705200995 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Abdol Rahim Ghafurzai, deputy minister of foreign affairs, met today in his office esteemed Gholam Reza Haddadi, ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kabul. At this meeting talks were held on the transport of Iranian aid goods to the people of Badakhshan and on finding a solution to difficulties of the Afghan refugees.

At this meeting, the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran passed on to Ghafurzai a letter by 'Abbas Maleki, deputy minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, addressed to the deputy minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, inviting him to pay an official visit to Iran.

Iranian Embassy Presents Satellite Dish

LD2805172995 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Embassy of Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] in Kabul has presented a satellite dish to the General Department of Radio-Television and Afghan Film.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that the charge d'affaires of the IRI's embassy to Kabul this morning attended a ceremony, during which the satellite was handed over. [Words indistinct] this IRI assistance was accepted with thanks by the [words indistinct] of General Department of Radio-Television and Afghan Film. [words indistinct]

'Source:' Islamic Unity Party Controls Province

LD2805163595 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 28 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan [Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan] and the High Coordination Council [HCC] control over the central province of Bamian has strengthened. This point has been expressed by a responsible source of Wahdat-e Eslami in radio contact with Radio Message of Freedom. He said: Bamian Province and all its districts are under the control of the Coordination Council. After the martyrdom of the late Ostad Mazari, leader of the Wahdat-e Eslami, the source adds, some members of the Kabul administration wanted to cause disruption in Bamian Province, but Wahdat-e Eslami forces crushed the troublemakers in the province during a series of clearing up operations. Now the whole of Bamian Province is controlled by the HCC forces. The source adds: Wahdat-e Eslami will, as in the past, continue to support the policy of stance of the HCC. [words indistinct]

Spokesman Comments on Talks With Government

LD2905161395 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Talks between the National Movement and the Kabul administration do not contradict the aims of the High Coordination Council [HCC]. We follow the aims and polices of the council. These point were expressed by General Yusuf, a spokesman of the National Islamic Movement, in an interview with the BBC. He said: We started talks at the suggestion of Rabbani and we have our own specific conditions and aims in this connection. First, Rabbani should denounce his jehad declaration against the National Movement and should say that the edict was unfounded. Similarly, he should recognize the National Movement and accept the National Movement's forces as part of the Islamic army. When our condition are accepted then the exchange of prisoners will take place. So far we have not discussed the power transfer and the formation of a government. However we will follow the views of the HCC in this respect. Gen. Yusuf added: The other side has, in general, accepted our conditions but in connection with their implementation, they are procrastinating. Therefore, we think the Kabul administration is envisaging something different.

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Bangladesh

Spokesman Addresses 'Heinous' Act by Serbs

BK2905022495 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 0100 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Bangladesh has strongly condemned the killing of the foreign minister of Bosnia, Irfan Ljubijankic, and termed it as a heinous act of terrorism by the Serbs. A spokesman of the Foreign Ministry said in Dhaka yesterday that Bangladesh regards the tragic death of the Bosnian foreign minister as a condemnable and detestable act. He was killed when his helicopter was shot down by the Serbs. The government and the people of Bangladesh have called upon the United Nations to immediately take positive measures to prevent the Serbs from indulging in this type of activity.

It has been reported earlier that the foreign minister of Bosnia- Herzegovina, Irfan Ljubijankic, has been killed. Bosnian Serbs shot down his helicopter while he was returning from Bihac. This government-controlled enclave in the northwestern region of Bosnia has been encircled by Bosnian Serb troops. With the killing of Mr. Irfan, the international crisis centering on Bosnia-Herzegovina has further intensified. Bosnian Serbs have detained over 250 UN peacekeepers in that place. The Serb forces in Croatia have stated that they attacked the helicopter since it violated their air space.

Zia, Pakistani Envoy Discuss Kashmir Situation

BK2905133095 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1200 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Professor N.D. Khan, special envoy of the prime minister of Pakistan and law, justice and parliamentary affairs minister, met Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office at noon today. During the meeting, the envoy apprised Begum Zia of the latest situation in Kashmir following the Charar Sharif incident. The Pakistani minister said that a serious situation has emerged due to the threats made by [Indian] national leaders. N.D. Khan also informed that he would visit Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei to inform these countries about the current situation in Kashmir. He added that the Pakistani prime minister has called for a meeting of Islamic foreign ministers to discuss the matter. He said that Pakistan wants the implementation of UN resolutions on the Kashmir question.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia said Bangladesh has already condemned the destruction of the holy Charar Sharif and expressed deep concern over the human rights violation there. Reaffirming Bangladesh's stance on it, Begum Zia said this is a matter of principle.

The Pakistani envoy lauded the socioeconomic progress in Bangladesh during the last four years under the present government. He noted the progress made especially in family planning and education. The prime minister's chief secretary (?Anwar) Yusuf and Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan were also present during the meeting.

Earlier, Fazlur Rahman, minister of state for social welfare, welcomed the Pakistani envoy when he arrived today at the Zia International Airport for a three-day visit to Bangladesh. Talking to newsmen, the special envoy said his country is keen to raise the seriousness of the situation in Indian-occupied Kashmir at the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Conference. He said he is visiting Bangladesh to apprise Prime Minister Khaleda Zia of the current situation in Kashmir, especially following the savage act in Charar Sharif. Pakistan's federal minister for law, justice and parliamentary affairs said Prime Minister Bhutto has also sent letters to heads of government and state of other Islamic countries and the United Nations explaining the serious developments in Indian-occupied Kashmir. Professor Khan said the Pakistani prime minister is very keen to visit Bangladesh, however, he is not in a position now to say anything about the date of her visit. He expressed the hope that during his visit he will meet Mirza Gholam Hafiz, Bangladesh's minister for law and parliamentary affairs, and exchange views on their experiences in the law and parliamentary affairs of the two countries.

Spokesman Says Zia's South Korean Visit 'Successful'

BK3005011895 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1600 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A 16-member high-powered Korean delegation is arriving in Dhaka tomorrow to explore the possibilities of further Korean investments in Bangladesh. This was stated by a Foreign Ministry spokesman while talking to newsmen in Dhaka today. The spokesman said another similar Korean delegation will also visit Bangladesh soon for this purpose. He described the just-concluded official visit of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to South Korea as very successful.

The prime minister during her three-day stay in Seoul had very fruitful summit talks and official parleys with South Korean president and other leaders. The South Korean president assured Prime Minister Khaleda Zia of all possible support and assistance to further consolidate bilateral ties between Dhaka and Seoul in all sectors, particularly in the economic front.

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The spokesman said one of the most salient features of the visit was the willingness shown by the South Korean leaders to take more Bangladeshi workers for employment in that country. South Korea is also likely to buy Bangladeshi (?pulp) manufactured from (?green jute). The two sides have also identified a number of sectors for further Korean investments in Bangladesh including textiles and cement sectors.

As already reported, three agreements were signed during the prime minister's stay in Seoul on bilateral cooperation. A 39-member Bangladesh business delegation (?which) accompanied the prime minister stayed back in Korea to work out details for further intensification of economic ties between the two countries. Bangladesh has given its full (?support) to the South Korean candidature for a nonpermanent membership of the UN Security Council. It also supported the reunification of two Koreas.

Replying to a question about the meeting in Dhaka of the foreign secretaries of Bangladesh and India, and the issue of water sharing between the two countries, the spokesman said Bangladesh awaits a reply from India. Turning to the situation in Kashmir, he said Bangladesh had already condemned the burning of a shrine and a mosque there and hoped that normalcy will be restored there soon. Bangladesh has always been expressing the need for the maintenance of peace and stability in the region. When asked to comment about the so-called push back program of India, the spokesman categorically said Bangladesh will not accept any unilateral pushing back by New Delhi. Dhaka has always conveyed to the Indian authorities in clear and unequivocal terms if anyone is pushed into the Bangladesh territory unilaterally he will be pushed back, he asserted.

In reply to a question about the prevailing situation in Sri Lanka, the Foreign Office spokesman said Bangladesh fully supports the Sri Lankan Government's initiatives to tackle the situation. Bangladesh is ready to offer any political and moral support to the government of the island state.

When his attention was drawn to the latest developments in Bosnia, he said the UN Security Council should immediately take necessary action to ensure the safe (?staying) of the UN peacekeepers there. He said Bangladesh supported the NATO air strike in Bosnia. The spokesman also said Bangladeshi troops serving with the UN peacekeeping force there are safe.

India

Rao Extends Federal Rule Over Kashmir

BK2905154395 Hong Kong AFP in English 1542 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, May 29 (AFP) — The Indian government decided Monday [29 May] to extend federal rule over Kashmir for another six months after the election chief warned against trying to hold early polls in the troubled state, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

The news agency said the cabinet of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao had decided to extend central rule over Kashmir for another six months after it expires on July 17.

"The government decided on one more spell of extension of presidential rule as an enabling provision while continuing the efforts to hold elections at the earliest," PTI quoted official sources as saying.

Nearly 12,000 people have been killed in Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, since 1989, when Muslim separatist militants launched a violent campaign for an end to Indian rule.

Chief Election Commissioner T.N. Seshan reportedly told Rao following a visit to Kashmir over the weekend that the security situation would not allow for peaceful elections to be held by mid- July, PTI said.

The extension of central rule would require a constitutional amendment, which would have to be passed before Friday since parliament's present session ends on June 2, officials said.

The constitution does not allow for the imposition of federal rule in a region for more than six consecutive terms. Presidential rule is allowed for six months at a stretch, and then has to be extended by parliament.

Rao's decision to extend federal rule in Kashmir followed warnings from opposition parties against trying to hold elections for a state legislature in the troubled Himalayan province.

The ruling Congress (I) party has supported polls in Kashmir saying restoring an elected government would help stem the Muslim militancy.

Muslim separatist guerrillas and religious heads in Kashmir have vowed to sabotage the proposed elections, but the prime minister has reiterated that he would not bow to the boycott threats.

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Kashmir Elections Ruled Out Before 18 July

BK3005090695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 30 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The chief election commissioner has ruled out holding of assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir before the 18th of July [when president's rule expires in the state]. Addressing a press conference in Pune, Mr. T.N. Seshan, also expressed his inability to fix the final date for polling in the state. He said the Election Commission will continue to monitor the situation in the state to initiate the process for a free and fair poll as early as possible.

Mr. T.N. Seshan, who visited the Kashmir valley last Saturday [27 May], said he had conveyed to the prime minister his assessment of the situation in Kashmir with the conclusion that it was impractical to hold free and fair elections in the state before the 18th of July.

At its meeting yesterday, the union cabinet is understood to have decided to extend the president's rule in the state for another six months while continuing the efforts to revive the democratic process at the earliest.

External Affairs Minister Returns From U.S. Visit

Claims Trip 'Very Useful'

BK2805091795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 28 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, has said that the United States has not put any pressure on India to abandon deployment of the surface-to-surface Prithvi missile. On his return from the United States, Mr. Mukherjee told newsmen in New Delhi today that during his visit, the two countries have understood each other's viewpoints on matters of mutual interest. He described his week-long visit as very useful and that he held discussions with several U.S. leaders, including the secretary of state, Mr. Warren Christopher. Mr. Mukherjee also said that Washington has not raised the issue of India not signing the NPT [nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty].

The U.S. ambassador to India, Mr. Frank Wisner, who was present at the airport on Mr. Mukherjee's arrival, said that the successful visit marks the first anniversary of the joint statement made by the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, and President Mr. Bill Clinton. He said Washington is committed to this objective of deepening and broadening the relationship with India.

Daily Sees 'Little Content' to Visit

BK2805111195 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 26 May 95 p 11

[Editorial: "A Protocol Exercise"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] If a great deal of vagueness surrounds the outcome of Mr Pranab Mukherjee's three-day visit to the United States it is probably because there was very little content to it. A good number of issues cropped up during the External Affairs Minister's discussion with American officials. But from media reports it appears the two sides merely reiterated their known positions whether it was Kashmir or deployment of the Prithvi missile or the question of India's permanent membership of the UN Security Council. There probably was a personal briefing on the situation in Kashmir following the burning of the Charar Sharif shrine and its possible impact on the projected election in the State. But the non-committal US position was clear from Secretary of State Warren Christopher's cryptic comment that elections were only one of several ingredients for a resolution of the Kashmiri question. The visit, with its high point being a luncheon meeting between Mr Mukherjee and Mr Christopher, was largely a protocol exercise. The Secretary of State did use the occasion to tell India how angry Uncle Sam has been at New Delhi's refusal to shun the "pariah" country, Iran. As a tit for tat for the "offensive" scheduling of Treasury Secretary Rubin's visit to India while Iranian President Rafsanjani was a State guest here came the news that the Pressler law has been amended to resume economic aid to Pakistan suspended in 1990 because of its nuclear weapons programme. Relatively less publicised is the fact that a number of F-16s sent to the US for repair and updating but held back were also released.

It can thus be surmised that while Indo-US relations are growing promisingly, there is as yet no evidence that their political differences have narrowed. As two mature nations they can keep them apart but, perhaps, only to an extent. For economic relations today are overloaded with political considerations which take into account the crucial question of transfer of sensitive technology. It had been hoped that Mr Mukherjee, as the first Indian Foreign Minister to visit Washington in five years, would be able to build upon the Indo-American partnership which was sought to have been imparted a new dynamism after the Rao-Clinton summit last year. So far what is transparent in Indo-US relations is an agreement to disagree over a host of basic political and strategic issues. That does not exactly appear a strong base to build a flourishing economic partnership upon.

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Radio Praises 'Positive' Outcome

BK2905112595 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 29 May 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The visit of the external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, to the United States has been useful and timely. His discussions with the American secretary of state, Mr. Warren Christopher, and other administration leaders and legislators in Washington covered not only the recent developments in the subcontinent but also other international issues of mutual interest, including the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Mr. Mukherjee particularly took the opportunity of presenting in perspective the latest situation in Kashmir. Apart from countering the anti-Indian propaganda that had been unleashed by Pakistan in the wake of the burning down of the Charar Sharif shrine by the militants and foreign mercenaries, the discussions have helped in securing a better appreciation of India's policies by the U.S.

Mr. Christopher, in a significant statement to the newspersons in the presence of Mr. Mukherjee, recognized that Kashmir is a bilateral issue to be solved by India and Pakistan through a constructive dialogue. This marks a positive shift from the previous stand of offering American mediation if both parties favored it. The clear message is that the United States does not want to get involved in the Kashmir issue, however much Pakistan might be pleading for their meditation. Mr. Christopher also accepted that the move to hold elections in Kashmir is an important step toward normalization of the situation, although he added that they were only one part of an overall way to address a most difficult problem in the region. The remarks of the American secretary of state showed that he does not accept the charges of repression in Kashmir leveled against India by the supporters of militancy.

Mr. Mukherjee explained the latest situation in Kashmir in an address to the National Press Club in Washington. He pointed out that terrorism has created its pall of death, destruction, and criminal bloodshed in the Kashmir Valley. Undeterred by terrorist violence, India is determined to go ahead with the steps to revive the political process in Jammu and Kashmir.

The nuclear nonproliferation issue and India's relations with Iran, on which there are differences between the two sides, also figured in the discussion. Mr. Mukherjee explained at the press conference that though India is not a signatory to the discriminatory Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty — NPT — its commitment to nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation is deep and sincere. India's prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, and the American President, Mr. Bill Clinton, had endorsed the objective of global nuclear disarmament when they met in Washington in May last year. The American view of Iran being a state sponsoring terrorism is not shared by India. The Iranian president, Mr. Rafsanjani, had a highly successful visit to India recently and Mr. Christopher has said he would take up the Iranian issue with Mr. Mukherjee in the discussions. The two sides have agreed to disagree on the Iranian issue.

Mr. Mukherjee's visit coincided with the discussions in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on issues relating to India and Pakistan. The stalemate over the delivery of 28 F-16 fighter aircraft ordered by Pakistan some time ago figured in the committee discussions. Because of Pressler Amendment denying aid to Pakistan on account of its nuclear weapon program, the F-16 aircraft, which are capable of carrying nuclear weapons, are not likely to be released to Pakistan. Mr. Mukherjee conveyed India's concern about Pakistan's nuclear program during the discussion on security issues.

The progress of India's economic liberalization program reportedly figured in the discussions. Mr. Mukherjee, in a statement to the press, pointed out that there is national consensus behind the reforms. Even non-Congress chief ministers are enthusiastic about the program, which has opened up vast opportunities for business. There is no question of reversing the economic program.

Mr. Mukherjee's description of his discussion in Washington as very fruitful and constructive summed up the positive nature of its outcome.

Pakistan Reportedly Fires Rockets into Kashmir

BK2905145295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistani troops fired seven rockets from across the border on Indian villages near Punch town early this morning. Our correspondent reports that two rockets exploded near a school building in Karmara village, about 4 km from Punch, but no damage was caused. The other five rockets exploded in Gulpur village, about 3 km from Punch. No damage to life or property was reported from this place also. Indian troops retaliated by firing toward Pakistan. This is the second attempt by Pakistan to destroy the school building in Karmara village.

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Fourteen 'Militants' Killed in Kashmir Unrest

BK2905162395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] In Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistani troops fired seven rockets from across the border on Indian villages near Punch town early this morning. [passage omitted]

Elsewhere in the valley, five militants were killed today in the continuing group clashes between rival organizations. According to an official spokesman, the clashes took place in Hakura Badisgaon between Hezbul Mojahedin and Muslim Mojahedin groups. Nine militants were also killed in different encounters with security forces.

President Departs on Visit to Four Nations

BK2705095795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 27 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The president left New Delhi this morning on a four-nation visit. During the fortnight visit, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma will take part in the celebrations marking 150 years of the immigration of Indian people to Trinidad and Tobago. It is on the 30th of May 1845 that the first batch of Indians arrived in these Caribbean islands to work in sugar plantations. The other three countries where the president is going are Chile, Zimbabwe and Namibia. Dr. Sharma is accompanied by an official delegation comprising two ministers of state for external affairs, 10 members of parliament, and senior officials. Besides meeting the heads of state and government of these countries, the president will meet members of the trade and business community.

***Article Exposes Bewilderment at Pakistani 'Insult'**

95AS0320C Madras DINAMANI in Tamil 22 Mar 95 p 7

[Article: "What Is India's Reply To Pakistan's Insult?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] New Delhi, March 26 — R.L. Bhatia, Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who went as a representative of the President of India to attend the national day celebration of Pakistan, held at the embassy of Pakistan in New Delhi, was not offered a seat. He was standing there for sometime and then left the scene. No decision has been taken so far as to how India should respond to the insult.

The embassy of Pakistan held a reception for its national day last Thursday [16 March]. It is a convention that for such functions a minister from ministries other than foreign affairs used to represent the head of state.

This time, the Foreign Ministry decided that its minister should attend the function as a gesture of goodwill towards Pakistan. In diplomatic circles, it is considered a unique honor shown to the concerned country. It is only on this basis that Mr. Bhatia went to represent the President of India.

It is customary when a representative of the President of India goes to the embassy, the Ambassador receives him personally and takes him to the seat assigned to him. After being seated they both used to be engaged in conversion. Other guests at the function usually come and offer their greetings to the chief guest—the representative of the Indian President. This is the normal procedure.

Last year, it was Mr. A.K. Antony, who was minister for civil supplies, as President's representative, attended the national day of Pakistan and he was received by Ambassador Kokkar who escorted him to his seat and both were talking for a while. Mr Kokkar was the ambassador last year and this year his behavior was very different.

Indian official R.P. Singh spoke to Kokkar and enquired if a seat has been assigned to Mr. Bhatia, before the arrival of the minister. The ambassador told him that as they are not sure as to how many will definitely come to the function, no special seat has been assigned to the minister.

Mr Singh consulted an official of the Foreign Ministry who had come to the function. But there was no opportunity for Singh to inform Minister Bhatia about the situation as the minister had already left for the embassy.

It is true that as soon as the Minister's car entered the Embassy premises, Riaz Kokkar personally received Mr Bhatia, but did not take him to any seat. He left the spot, leaving the minister alone. The United States Ambassador, on seeing the Minister, went to him and was talking with him. After 10 minutes, Minister Bhatia left the embassy premises.

While Minister Bhatia was thus insulted, Kokkar was very busy attending on the leaders who participated at the all-party Huyurath conference in New Delhi.

The Foreign Ministry officials who were shocked at the strange behavior of the Pakistani ambassador are yet to decide how India should respond to Pakistan for insulting its minister.

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***Impact of Union Budget on Infrastructure Viewed**

95AS0320A Madras DINAMANI in Tamil 22 Mar 95 p 4

[Commentary by V.P. Athreya: "Budget: Wearing The Armor of Glamor"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The presentation of the central budget, though an annual event, has come to gain great importance in the country.

There have been many forecasts as to what will be the shape of the budget in a number of newspapers throughout the country. In spite of vehement assertion by the ruling Congress Party circles that there will not be any connection between the election results of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat and Maharashtra states and the new economic policy, it was widely expected that the election results will have an impact on the budget. Dr. Manmohan Singh's budget has proved that the expectation is right. The budget also seems to hint that general elections to the lower house of parliament may also come about before the scheduled time.

What are the salient features of the budget? The new economic policy, announced in 1991, which has been vigorously implemented for the past 3 years will continue, while trying to reduce the hardship caused to the poor people. This seems to be [the] impression.

Changes have been announced in the taxation structure. Concessions in income-tax for Rs. 900 crore, in excise taxes for Rs. 311 crore and in customs taxes for Rs. 1,179 crore have been announced. The loss of revenue on account of these concessions will be Rs. 1,582 crore to the central government and Rs. 808 crore to the states, according to the budget estimates.

The allocation for the development of Panchayats was raised to Rs. 7,700 crore in the 1995-96 budget, from Rs. 7,010 crore in the 1994-95 budget. To help the poor, particularly in the rural areas, four new schemes have been proposed.

Considering all these budget proposals, though dictated by political compulsions, seem to give an impression that this budget is intended to benefit the poor people in the land. But with a closer look and in depth study of the budget, it would be clear, it is not so.

IMPORTANT ISSUES

Inflation, unemployment and poverty are the three issues that have been hurting the majority of people in our country. To add to our misery, there has not been the monsoon rains for the past 5 years. Grain production has been on the increase. According to Manmohan Singh's estimate there has been a total of 3 crore tons of grain in the government godowns. And yet, the prices of all the basic needs, including grains have been going up by leaps and bounds.

The important reason for inflation is enormous increase in circulating currency. Manmohan Singh, on the one hand, has been giving tax concessions to the wealthy class for the past 4 years. On the other hand, to make up for the loss of revenue caused by these concessions, he tries to reduce the subsidies given for food and fertilizers, and increase the cost of public distribution and prices of other commodities and also raise the charges for services rendered by the government. He also tries to sell properties held by public sectors and also getting bigger loans to make up for the loss.

AN ACHIEVEMENT, YET A PERIOD OF TRIAL TOO

Our foreign exchange reserve has been raising so much to mark an achievement level, due to the flow of foreign capital into our country and the loans obtained by the Indian industrialists and the government. This at the same time, has resulted in increasing the circulation of currency on a wider scale and promoting inflation in the country.

There has not been any proposal to bring under control the current soaring rate of inflation of more than 11 percent. On the contrary, the estimated deficit of Rs. 5,000 crore in the budget for 1995-96 does not seem to be credible. In the last year's budget, the deficit figure was estimated to be Rs. 6,000 crore and in order to maintain it, the government had to resort to go on borrowing excessively and selling properties of the public sector.

Another major problem is to solve the unemployment situation, by bringing a plan for economic growth that would generate proliferation of jobs that would benefit the people. But this budget does not have any proposal of this kind at all. The budget allocation for 1995-96 is just 11 percent more than the last year's estimate.

Regarding the inflation situation there has been no change. This, too, was anticipated. It is because the budgetary allocation for financial aid in respect of the plan which was 40 percent last years was reduced to 37 percent this year. In the budget financial aid for plan allocation for infrastructure as well industries [as] is only 12.9 percent and 26.1 percent, respectively. Therefore, it is doubtful if even the minimum plan allocation would find a place in the budget. This, indeed, will affect the growth at the present time and also in the future.

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ANTI-POVERTY MEASURES

The plans announced to fight poverty are, in principle, to be welcomed. But they are just announcements, because the budget does not detail expenditure for the plans. It reminds us of the danger that sometimes the plans just end up in mere announcements, as evidenced by our past experience.

These plans should be effectively implemented, to provide the poor with some relief. But at the same time, it must be pointed out that these are not the solutions to the problem of poverty.

The budget may please the foreign capitalists. In particular the initial steps to throw open the Indian copyright field to the private sector, as desired by the American multinational companies has already been taken. In the same manner, a similar announcement regarding the share market should also give encouragement to the big investors.

With $2000 crore or about Rs. 62,000 crore in foreign exchange reserve and with 3 crore tons of grain in our godowns, they could have easily ventured to build so many public facilities like schools, medical clinics, roads and bridges in the rural areas, thereby giving employment for so many crores of man-days. By imposing taxes on the rich and with that revenue, the government could have strengthened the general structure.

But, the government could not have gained the trust of the foreign investors or the appreciation of the World Bank and the Fund. Therefore, the attractive appearance of the budget, though necessitated by the recent election results and future elections, looks like a populist budget; but, in fact, it is just an armor of glamor. The effort to maintain that glamor has been there since 1991. That is the line of action that the multinational capital also wants. It has now slowed down a little on account of the elections. That is the truth about this budget.

Iran

Media Views U.S. Presence in Persian Gulf

Called Part of 'Monopolistic Goals'

LD2805125095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 28 May 95

[Station commentary: "On the Sidelines of American Military Movements in the Persian Gulf"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On 27th May, Iran's National Security Council held a meeting being presided over by President Hashemi- Rafsanjani. During the meeting, reports concerning the new organization of the American forces in the Persian Gulf were studied.

The WEEKLY JANES DEFENSE [as heard] wrote: American officials have announced that the U.S. Marine Forces, after 50 years, are reorganizing their 5th Fleet's presence in the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean, basing its command headquarters in Bahrain.

Iran's National Security Council in yesterday's issue [statement] described the movements regarding the establishment and concentration of these forces in the region as the sign of their continued policy of the U.S. militarism with regard to monopolistic goals and for the purpose of giving legal credence to its illegitimate presence in the Persian Gulf. The Council also stressed the Islamic Republic of Iran's interest in continuing to have good relations with neighbors, specially the littoral states of the Persian Gulf.

Among the goals behind the presence of the alien forces in the Persian Gulf, one can site the creation of arms race between the littoral states of the Persian Gulf to depict the region as the region as being insecure, and thus plundering the region's oil resources.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has often been in consultation with the countries of the region, noting the vital significance of the regional resources for the international community. Iran has also underlined the incongruity of the U.S. illegitimate steps in strengthening his monopolistic hegemony over the region with the world peace and stability, reminding them of the threat of such movements.

As repeatedly pointed out by the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, establishment of security, peace, and stability in the region will not be possible except with the cooperation of the regional countries. And as long as the waters of the Persian Gulf is the arena of the U.S. military forces or other Western countries, the region will not obtain stable peace and security. As Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, has repeatedly pointed out, the Islamic Republic of Iran has no other intention but cooperation with the littoral states of the Persian Gulf. These countries should be watchful of their fate because obedience to alien colonialistic policies will involve them in a situation resulting in the fact they will have to reproach each other.

Daily Views 'Adventurism,' Motives

LD2905105595 Tehran IRNA in English 1033 GMT 29 may 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 29, IRNA — The English daily IRAN NEWS here Monday [29 May]

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stressed on the political importance of the Persian Gulf and said that it could rightly be underlined by the fact that the region met 65 percent of the oil needs of the world.

Commenting on the presence of the U.S. in this sensitive region, the daily's editorial said that the U.S. opted to have the upper hand in this region because of the fresh situation. [passage indistinct]

Pointing out that the image of the U.S. who in the wake of the Cold War enjoyed the status of the sole superpower was gradually fading now that Europe — a united Europe — was emerging as its potential rival, it wrote that Europe had more interest in the Perisan Gulf region compared to the United States which was self-sufficient in its oil needs.

It believed that the recent provocations through U.S. military buildup were based on adventurism, particularly in the light of next year's elections, recalling similiar acts of adventurism in the past by the U.S. in Haiti and Grenada.

The daily further touched upon some of the major problems gripping the Clinton administration who is the first Democrat President in 12 years, and remarked that the so-called Middle East peace process still could not produce any favourable results "... A set-back for Democrats who were thinking to sell it to their Zionist-oriented voters in the United States in next year's presidential elections."

The IRAN NEWS editorial concluded by writing that "in order to counter U.S. adventurism, Iran and other neighbouring countries should keep their eyes open. Particularly, the Islamic Republic should leave no stone unturned to avoid the situation where the U.S. could play an Iranian card in the election campaign.

North Korean Foreign Minister, Delegation Visit

Schedule of Visit Detailed

LD2805113695 Tehran IRNA in English
0905 GMT 28 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 28, IRNA — A North Korean delegation led by Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam will arrive here Monday [29 May], a source at the Iranian Foreign Ministry said.

Head of the Asia-Pacific Affairs Department of Iran's Foreign Ministry Hasan Taheri, in an interview with the daily 'IRAN' which was printed Sunday, said during the three-day visit of the Korean delegation, developement of economic and political cooperation as well as regional and international topics would be discussed.

Describing mutual ties as positive and satisfactory, the Iranian official said the two countries are cooperating in various fields at regional and international levels.

However, he categorically refuted allegations made by Western media on military cooperation between Iran and North Korea.

Meanwhile, the deputy foreign minister for Asia-Pacific affairs, Ala'eddin Borujerdi, told the daily TEHRAN TIMES that Iran has announced readiness to help the two Koreas settle their differences. He said Iran welcomes expansion of relations with both Koreas in every possible field.

Minister Urges Expansion of Ties

LD2905104595 Tehran IRNA in English
1028 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 29, IRNA — The foreign minister of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Kim Yong-nam arrived here Monday [29 May] on a three-day official visit and was greeted at the airport by his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Speaking to IRNA upon arrival, Kim expressed hope that his visit would pave the way for further expansion of Tehran-Pyongyang relations.

Iran and DPRK share common stances on international issues, stressed the North Korean foreign minister.

Velayati, in turn, called as very "positive" Tehran-Pyongyang cooperation at the bilateral and international levels.

He said he would discuss with Kim major international issues during their talks in Tehran.

Views U.S. 'Pressure' With Velayati

NC3005072295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
0230 GMT 30 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kim Yong-nam, the deputy prime minister who is also foreign minister of North Korea, met our Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati yesterday and called for further broadening of Tehran-Pyongyang relations.

During this meeting, the North Korean foreign minister stated: The present century is one of growth for Asia and the swift and remarkable growth of this region brings glad tidings of such developments. He added: With its unfounded and hollow accusations, the United States is seeking to put pressure on the independent developing

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countries of the world and to impose its views on others by force.

Kim Yong-nam added: The United States does not have the right to prevent countries from peaceful utilization of nuclear energy, as it is the right of every country to diversify its sources of energy for growth and development. He stressed: North Korea considers the U.S.'s latest measures to put unwarranted political and economic pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran as an action against the entire Asian continent. During this meeting, Kim Yong—nam called for cooperation between the two countries in the field of production, oil refining, road and bridge construction, and mass production of housing.

Dr. Velayati alluded to the excellent relations between the two countries and stressed the further strengthening of reciprocal relations. He referred to the dispatch of a high-level oil delegation from Tehran to Pyongyang and said: The Islamic Republic of Iran will muster all its efforts for broadening relations with North Korea in various fields.

Stresses 'Friendship' With Rafsanjani

LD3005112095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 30 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kim Yong-nam, the North Korean deputy prime minister and foreign minister, was received by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today, to whom he conveyed a message of friendship from his country's government and people to the government and people of Iran.

The North Korean foreign minister said that the friendship and sincere cooperation between Iran and Korea is a consequence of the political will of Kim Il-sung, the late Korean leader, and Kim Chong-il, the new leader. He added: Due to the sentiments they share with the Iranian people, the people of North Korea wish to see greater cooperation between the two countries. Declaring the support of the government and people of North Korea for the principled positions of the Islamic Republic of Iran on international issues, and condemning the recent U.S. embargo against Iran, he added: Exerting pressure on independent, developing countries such as Iran and North Korea in the hope that they will abandon their principled policies and independence-seeking positions is the main aim of the United States. Developing countries must, therefore, increase their cooperation so as to help confront the new conspiracy of their enemies in view of the new international conditions. The North Korean foreign minister also briefed the president about the latest political developments in his country.

According to our reporter, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani described the relations and cooperation between Iran and North Korea as a model of good ties and cooperation based on mutual respect and mutual interest, saying: The past record of relations between the two countries reveals that, because of U.S. hostile policies toward Iran and North Korea, the two nations are linked together by a shared interest, that is, confronting the bullying and greed of the U.S. government, and they support and back one another in difficult and sensitive times. The president also declared the readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to expand ties with the friendly country of North Korea.

Views U.S. Embargo With Oil Minister

LD3005134695 Tehran IRNA in English 1321 GMT 30 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 30, IRNA — The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) is for expansion of oil and technological cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Visiting DPRK's foreign minister, Kim Yong-nam in a meeting here Tuesday [30 May] with Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i underlined the need to broaden Tehran-Pyongyang relations and called on Iran to help DPRK modernize its oil refineries.

Referring to the United States' propaganda against Iran, he expressed hope that the Iranian nation and government, as before, would overcome U.S economic and oil embargo.

Aqazadeh praising DPRK's friendly stance towards Iran and its positive role in international developments, said in view of Iran's outstanding role in providing energy, countries of the world are obliged to take seriously Iran's role in supplying parts of their needed energy.

He pointed out that U.S embargo against Iran will not disrupt the latter's oil sale or development of its oil industries.

Welcoming the idea of promoting Tehran-Pyongyang oil and economic cooperation, Aqazadeh announced at the present a team of Iranian experts are in North Korea for modenization of oil refineries in that country.

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Radio Comments on Jerusalem 'War' Against Ummah

NC2905120695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 29 May 95

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Zionist regime's cabinet issued a statement yesterday announcing that to preserve a united Jerusalem as the permanent capital of this regime under its dominance, it will combat all efforts to divide the city.

This viewpoint expressed by the officials of the Zionist regime regarding Jerusalem has no novelty as similar claims have been repeated by this aggressor expansionist regime for the past 28 years of its occupation of this city. However, one must accept that verbal emphasis on this stance and practical steps to implement it would be tantamount to a declaration of war against the Islamic ummah, who will never tolerate the occupation of their first qiblah [direction in which Muslims offer prayers].

The insistence by the Zionist regime for its continued occupation of Jerusalem—at a time when all historical evidence affirms that it belongs to the Muslims and UN Security Council resolutions admit to these areas as being occupied—is the result of this joint Israeli-Western plot and because the Islamic countries have not taken it seriously. With their support of the Zionist regime in the past half century, the Western countries, especially the United States, have constantly paved the way for the proliferation of its aggression against the Arab governments. This is while the Islamic countries are devoid of a suitable strategy for combating this joint plot.

Political observers believe that the world of Islam has numerous levers of pressure on the international level and as long as it does not utilize these possibilities to defend its aspirations and the attainment of its objectives, this regrettable situation will not be altered.

Opposition Group Calls For Free Elections

NC2805101695 Paris AFP in English 0924 GMT 28 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 28 (AFP)—The Liberation Movement of Iran (LMI), one of the few opposition groups tolerated in the Islamic republic, called Sunday [28 May] for free and general elections to help the country rise out of its "present impass."

In a letter to the nation, a copy of which was received by AFP, 86 opposition figures urged Iranians to shake off "their indifference and actively participate in the country's political, social and economic life."

"While the country is facing a grave political, social and economic crisis, the government keeps itself in power by selling oil and gold," it said.

The letter signed by the 86 called for the "necessary conditions" to be created to ensure the "participation of all levels of the population in free elections."

"Apathy and isolation will not solve the severe and unprecedented crisis facing the country," it said.

"While we are aware of the consequences of publishing this statement, the signatories believe that a free political atmosphere is the only way out of the current impass," the statement added. It called for a "parliament whose members represent the entire population" in Iran.

Iran is to hold its next legislative elections in March — the fifth parliamentary elections to be organised since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

The Iranian constitution recognises the rights of political parties on the condition they not threaten the Islamic system of government in Iran.

The LMI, which espouses liberal Islamic ideas, has been denied permission to engage in political activities though it honors the constitution.

The group also voiced concern at the United States's "hostile" policies toward the Islamic republic, arguing that Washington's "new wave of animosity" was not just directed at Tehran, but at the Iranian people and the country's territorial integrity.

"When people feel that their true representatives are in the parliament, they will mobilise" against outside threat, said the group which is led by Ebrahim Yazdi [name as received].

LMI, founded in 1961 by former prime minister Mehdi Bazargan [name as received], has stepped up its criticism of the government in recent months.

Ayatollah Khamene'i Addresses Majles

LD2905215195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1005 GMT 29 May 95

[Address by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution in Iran, to the Majles in Tehran on 29 May — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. God be praised, one more year of the auspicious life of the fourth term of the Majles has been completed fruitfully, and I have the

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pleasure to spend a few moments in the presence of all you brothers and sisters, the dear deputies of the Majles.

If I were to present a general assessment of the fourth Majles, I would have to say that, God be praised, up to now the fourth Majles has done its utmost, or has tried very hard, to approach the lofty aims in keeping with being a representative of this dear, great, and noble nation. It has had a large measure of success in approaching the true position of the Majles, be it as described by law or as is deemed appropriate.

Well, in all fairness, in our system the Majles holds an outstanding position. It is a fact that in an Islamic environment the people's choices and wishes have a fundamental and decisive impact on the path, direction, and general nature of the system. This is as it should be. Therefore, it holds a very lofty position. In other words, in reality it is one of the biggest — not to say the biggest — pathways [ma'aber] that the Islamic system uses to move toward its goals; that is to say, it is the most important and the most sensitive pathway. This is the position and place of the Majles.

I have kept an eye on several features in the Majles; in this Majles. Of course, some of these also existed in the past terms of the Majles — I pray that God will also reward the deputies of previous terms and make their efforts the subject of his blessings — and some are specific to this Majles. I am saying these things in order both to gladden the people and to help them understand what their deputies have done, God be praised; and to hold them up as models of the outstanding work that must be carried out in an Islamic consultative assembly.

There are a few points that I always bear in mind and that cheer me up whenever I think about them. One is that the fourth Majles merged politics with ethics and did not formulate policies that contravened moral principles — thank God.

Thus, you can see that there is a moral lesson to be learned from the Majles. You can see that the stances adopted by the Majles — whether it is those political stances related to different ideological factions, those to do with work and concerning bills and debates within the Majles, the way a minister is questioned and summoned to the Majles, the stands of the deputies at the start of their work, or the important issue of credentials which you coped with very well — in all these one can see that the deputies do not indulge in wrongdoings and ill-intentioned thoughts. This is a very valuable thing. The current podium of the Majles does not create tension among people. On the contrary, it establishes tranquillity and peace. This is your great victory.

The second point that can be observed is that while the Majles cooperates with the government, respects the government — notably the head of the government — and their valuable work, it also fulfills its supervisory role. Evidence of this is the issue of the State Audit Office. For years when I held office both as president and otherwise, I really emphasized the issue of the State Audit Office and felt very sensitive about it. Thank god that the Audit Office is now active and is working to balance the budget and supervise certain tasks related to the country's budget, expenditure, economy, and these kinds of valuable tasks. The government too — without doubt a healthy, good, serving government such as ours — is very happy about this role of the Majles. [passage omitted]

Another point that makes me glad is timely reaction to sensitive domestic and foreign issues. The Majles is not absent when it comes to various kinds of issues, for instance, the cultural issue of satellites. Of course, the question of satellites is not a fundamental one for the country. It is a temporary problem, although one that is sensitive and influential. [passage omitted] The satellite problem is a superficial one although it can have destructive consequences. But you quickly reacted to the issue. I was watching and following the Majles debates, and I saw how correctly this issue was treated and confronted.

Let us take the reaction to the aggressive policies of global arrogance; confrontation with the arrogant U.S. Government and others. It is very important for the Majles to have a presence and react to all the problems and pains of this nation and the objectives for which it strives. These are one or two examples out of many in the past three years, which I have quoted to demonstrate this point.

Another issue that we have to praise is the second plan. With an effort worthy of praise, the government presented the plan to the Majles and, in all honestly, the Majles dealt actively and seriously with the plan. It showed diligence in dealing with the plan, which is the main guideline for the country's movement. The plan is of great significance. It is not the annual budget. It sets the direction for all matters, and diligence is needed to deal with it. The Majles showed that diligence. I witnessed that because time was short, the Majles delayed its vote and studied the bill. Such are symbols of diligence. It makes people happy to think that their representatives are behaving in such manner. This is our Majles. You can compare this Majles — with its alert conscience, diligence, prompt action, and spiritual perception —with previous Majles at the time of the despots. That Majles was formed in such a way that it would be a shame to use the term Majles for such

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assemblies. Of course, there were certain exceptions during the early periods [after the 1906 constitutional revolution], but it is unsuitable to use the name of consultative assembly for what existed after the fourth Majles — the former National Consultative Assembly — during the Pahlavi era.

Compare the Majles with other parliaments in the world. In all honesty and as far as we know — of course, there might be some parliaments that we are not aware of — none is like ours in terms of alertness, attention, diligence, conscience, proper effort, and spiritual perception. With such characteristics our Majles is the foremost in the world, thank God. The role of the presidium and the honorable person of the speaker is, in all honesty, distinguished. In my heart I thank God. I always pray for the speaker because of the diligence and the work that is achieving effective results for the country. No one should imagine that debates in the Majles have little effect on the state of the country. No, gentlemen! The combination of all efforts make up the general posture of the Majles, and the general posture of the Majles determines the country's movement toward its lofty goals.

For such characteristics we should thank God, and we should praise you and thank you dear ones and other Majles officials. There is one point that must be made. There is a difference between the Majles and the Majles deputies, meaning that if we praise the Islamic consultative assembly, which we should, it does not mean that the praise is intended for each and every deputy present at the Majles. No! There are things required of the deputies and there are things that they should refrain from. Some deputies fully adhere to these requirements, others might feel an average responsibility, and, God forbid, there might be some who feel less responsibility. A deputy must be judged by these measures. One responsibility is that because a deputy is representing the dear nation he should maintain the nation's honor. Attachment to a lofty and great place has its own requirements. A young person on the street or in the bazaar might behave in a particular way, but if this young man was the son of an honorable gentleman he will have to behave differently. He has to respect certain rituals and accept certain restraints. You would be critical if you saw a certain type of behavior from the son of a certain gentlemen while similar behavior by an ordinary young man on the street could be overlooked. [passage omitted]

God forbid that a deputy should bow down to those who do not have faith in the Islamic order, bow down to the rich who might have a penny or two, or bow down to those who might have spent some money wastefully during the elections. He was wrong to have spent it in the first place. He should not have done so. We should not respect them just because they have done something. When visiting a constituency or some other place — I am giving you an example of things that might happen — the mothers of martyrs, the families of martyrs and Basij volunteers expect to see us at the martyrs' cemetery, the mosque where the hezbollah gather, or the house of a certain martyr. They would be discouraged to possibly hear that we have visited the house of a person who has no relations or has poor relations with the Islamic revolution, the Islamic order, and the very essence of Islam. That is not the way to honor Islam. Such are the requirements.

There is another thing required of the Majles, with all its greatness and respect; and that is the fact that every second of Majles time is valuable. It must not be wasted. Imagine that as a Majles deputy we fail to be present on time for the mission, or we fail to enter the debates when someone is defending and another is criticizing, or if we busy ourself with reading and talking, or if we use Majles time for other things. I tell you that the profession of deputy is above the rest. Majles time is so valuable that it must not be wasted in obtaining knowledge, let alone wealth and material provisions. That valuable time belongs to the Majles and the nation, and it must not be wasted. [passage omitted]

The situation in the country is progressing and advancing. This is very good news for all. We are not in recession or regression. This is very important. Inactivity is also a regression. The country is in the process of construction, thank God. There are signs of construction all over the country. The active elements of the country, especially the loyal government, are all busy. The Majles too, in its own place and bunker, is planning, leading, and providing laws for the construction, modernization, progress, and economic development of the country. Everybody is busy, thank God. From a political point of view, our situation is good. From an economic point, our situation is changing, moving, and progressing. From a cultural and ethical point of view, an awakening dominates the country.

The cultural and ethical sector is, of course, most critical and sensitive. The enemy is aware of this. But in our bunker we stay attentive. The nation's attentiveness is good news in itself. In such conditions, the enemy will fail to do any wrong against the country, the revolution, or the nation. Of course, they make threats, they make arrogant speeches, they pose as a superpower, and even at times, for example, they put on a show of military presence or allocate a naval fleet to an area. But that does not make much difference. They have always had an unjust, usurped, and bullying presence. They want to pretend that they are serious in facing their enemies,

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and that their main thrust is against Islam, the Islamic awakening, and the Islamic movement lead by the order of the Islamic Republic, the Government and the people of Iran. That is the way they behave. But such behavior has no value or importance. It fails to weigh on an independent and pious nation. Let them do what they like. They have been doing it anyway. Has not the United States done everything against the Iranian nation for the past 16 years? They have resorted to everything within the possibilities of the contemporary world. But they cannot do whatever they like. There are limitations. There are restraints. The existing realities of the world impose limitations on our enemy. They have exerted as much pressure as they could. But they have failed and they will continue to fail. The nation is alert and attached to its faith. The nation's manner, movement, and progress is way above the analysis of the enemy. We read their analysis and we hear their statements. We see that they are far from understanding the truth of our country. Wrong analysis dictates wrong decisions, which impose defeats. That is why they are facing repeated defeats. They do not understand our nation, our revolution, or our country. The great God has willed to maintain his flag. The great God has willed for the glory of his religion. Why? Because believers have decided to serve that religion. This is the tradition of God and it is not particular to our age. God will help believers whenever they decide to implement his religion. This is the clear promise of the Koran and an inexorable divine law. Today a group of believers have decided to implement that religion, to fly the flag of that religion, and to strengthen religious laws. In turn, it is the will of God to implement this requirement and to cut short the hands of the enemy. This he will do. There is no room for anyone to feel concerned here or there. Thank God, the country is in a state of total glory, heading toward greater power and divine goals. Everyone, including the Majles, is following his responsibility within the context of this sacred effort. May God bless you with success. [passage omitted]

Radio Stresses Khamene'i's Exhortations to Majles

NC3005101195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 30 May 95

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] On the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the inception of the Islamic Majles, the deputies of the Majles met with the great leader of the Islamic Revolution. During this meeting, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i elaborated on the sensitive and destiny-making position of the Majles in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the successful performance of the fourth Majles, and the obligations of the deputies and stated some important points.

After expressing his appreciation for observing decorum in the debates of the deputies and the moral aspect of the work of the Islamic Majles which instills tranquility among the people, he said: There is no doubt that the industrious Islamic government is pleased with the Majles' supervisory role, especially with regard to the country's budget. This is because the Majles can thus assist the government in rectifying the various affairs of the country and in organizing financial affairs.

The remarks by the great leader of the revolution were in fact a recapitulation of the sensitive role of the Majles deputies as the eloquent voice of the Iranian people and of the Islamic Majles as the most important bulwark of legislation in the country right from the inception of this hallowed institution. From the political aspect, the presence of an active Majles, which always moves in conformity with the developments of the Islamic Revolution, shows the dynamism of the revolution and its capabilities in legislating the various matters required in the society.

Since its establishment, the Islamic Majles has continued its normal deliberations and even in the course of the imposed [Iran-Iraq] war, it was the main conduit for lawmaking in the country. This is eloquent testimony to the fact that the Islamic Revolution— which is nurtured by the revolutionary and aware thinking of the people—has delegated the lawmaking process and the consolidation of legal institutions to the competent representatives of the people.

On the other hand, as the leader of the revolution stressed, an active approach by the Majles deputies to important domestic issues such as the Second Five-Year Plan indicates that the Majles—with the lever of law in its hands—supervises the direction in which the country is going in the economic sector. With an understanding of the economic realities of the society, it assesses domestic and foreign issues.

The trend of current events in the country shows that the decisions of the Islamic Majles regarding issues such as combating high prices, controlling exports and imports, and in general, the economic needs of society are swiftly reflected at home and abroad. This shows the sensitivity of the work of the Majles and the expectations that the people and officials of the system have of the Majles deputies.

Thus, it is hoped that the Majles deputies will model themselves on the recommendations of the great leader of the revolution and give top priority to their work and

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their responsibilities. They should heed the sacrosanct nature of the Majles so that by continuing vigilant and timely actions in formulating laws and regulations, they can prove able exemplars of the conjunction of religion with politics who are endowed with Islamic and revolutionary acumen.

Payments for Insurance Claims Increase

95LA0214H Tehran RESALAT in Persian 28 Feb 95 p 15

[FBIS Translated Text] Economic Affairs Division — In the first nine months of this year [21 March-21 December 1994], insurance premiums collected by Iran Central Insurance increased 40 percent, while payments paid to insured people for losses increased nearly 80 percent.

Dr. 'Abdol-Naser Hemati, chief of Iran Central Insurance, announced this and said: This increase shows the tendency of the insurance companies to reform and improve their procedures for paying on losses and for providing additional services during payments on losses.

Based on the report from the Iran Central Insurance Public Relations Office, this body met. It was chaired by the minister of economic and financial affairs and attended by the minister of commerce, the minister of labor and social affairs, the Iran Central Insurance Executive Council, and other members.

Dr. Hemati discussed the measures enacted by the Supreme Insurance Council. He said: This year, through the Supreme Insurance Council, Iran Central Insurance has set new rates on earthquake insurance, and these rates are reduced for those who follow the principles of reinforcing their structures.

Likewise, to encourage exports and to encourage exporters to obtain letters of insurance from domestic insurance companies, the insurance rates for letters of insurance on export and transit freight have been decreased.

He announced that this decrease is 45 percent for letters of insurance issued in rials and 65 percent for letters of insurance issued in foreign exchange.

The chief of Iran Central Insurance noted: To expand the commercial insurance network, the Supreme Insurance Council has also authorized the issuance of letters of insurance by insurance representative companies by amending their guidelines.

Dr. Hemati discussed the activation of the insurance industry in the nation's needed investments. He said: The insurance industry intends to become more active in investment by compensating those with letters of insurance more than in the past.

He emphasized: The nation's insurance industry will increase its activities in the area of personal insurance and various types optional insurance.

Majles Controls Policy of Government Companies

95LA0214C Tehran RESALAT in Persian 3 Mar 95 p 15

[FBIS Translated Text] Economic Affairs Division — Based on guidance from the exalted leader, while writing the 1374 [21 March 1995-20 March 1996] Budget, the Majles has been following the policy of contraction and rigorous control of current and development expenses in the government organizations.

Engineer Mohammad Majdara, deputy from Babolsar and member of the Majles Plan and Budget Commission, announced this in an interview with our correspondent. He said: It is the view of the Majles that the organizations and companies affiliated with the government have followed a policy of expansion with regard to their expenditures. For this reason, to prevent waste and dissipation, in the year 1374, which will be the first year of the Second Five-Year Plan, the Majles will employ mechanisms to strengthen its supervision.

He added: This year the Majles gave special attention to all the budget rows having to do with expenses. It adopted special control policies with regard to the excessive expenditures of the government companies, whose budgets make up more than 52 percent of the government's total general budget.

He added: Based on Note 2, all the general assemblies and supreme councils in government companies are prohibited from establishing offices for new affiliate companies or even from taking part in new companies.

To prevent unnecessary current expenses, the commission has decided that the purchase of any kind of domestic or foreign automobile is prohibited for the ministries and their affiliated companies, except for such things as ambulances.

In the same regard Majdara added: The purchase of capital equipment and supplies such as copy machines and televisions has also been completely prohibited except for educational centers. Any kind of expenditure in the buildings of government organizations for decorations or changing decorations, for changing furniture, for replacing consumer supplies such as decorative floor coverings, or for buying and using artistic works has been prohibited.

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The member of the Majles Plan and Budget Commission discussed supervision of the budgets of government companies. He said: Last year the budgets of 16 government companies were included in the bill. In the 1374 Budget Bill, however, more than 30 important government companies, whose budgets make up more than 50 percent of the total budget for government companies, were required to submit their enactments and budgets to the Majles.

He noted: That 50 percent not included in the Budget includes small companies. Since the Majles' first step was to control the government companies, it therefore dealt initially with the important companies.

Likewise the executive directors and members of the boards of directors of the government companies have been prohibited from paying any kind of funds as rewards or gifts to real persons or legal entities.

Eng. Majdara was asked: What measures have been taken to supervise enforcement of Majles legislation? He answered: For next year special responsibility has been given to the Accounting Court to do this so that it can deal more forcefully with violators. After study of the violations by the Supreme Council, the Accounting Court is required to turn the violators over to the courts for punishment.

He discussed the reason for the growth in current expenses for the year 1374. He said: There was a 2.5 percent increase over the budget figure and the amount approved by the commission. The reason for this was the inclusion of a figure for subsidies on basic goods in the current expenses row. The government's bill provided 4,102 billion rials [R] in subsidies, but to secure public welfare the Majles increased the figure by R500 billion to R4,602 billion.

The member of the Majles Plan and Budget Commission said the total figure for the government's current expenses is R42,332.4 billion. He said: Of this figure, about R33,000 billion in budget totals, which include defense, education and training, health care and treatment, the Imam's Aid Committee, the Martyr Foundation, the Red Crescent, the police forces, and the development of roads and rural regions, were not decreased because of their importance. The Majles decreased the budgets for the other sectors by 3 to 5 percent.

Eng. Majdara discussed development expenses for the year 1374. He said: The figure in the government's bill for development expenses was R14,569.1 billion. The Majles increased this figure 1.7 percent to R14,816.2 billion, an increase of 19 percent compared to the development expense budget for the year 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995].

He discussed the areas for development activity next year. He said: In accordance with the goals of the Second Five-Year Plan, projects having to do with water, water capture, and dam construction will receive the highest allocations. The development budget will be focused on water and agriculture.

He discussed the Majles view of methods of implementing development projects saying:

In view of reports from the Accounting Court, the Plan and Budget Commission realized that a system of controls had to be implemented for the volume and design procedures of development expenses. To prevent damage and loss, an indicator was established for operational development expenses in such a way that there would be a reasonable relationship between development expenses and the inflation indicator, there will be no heavy adjustments in development expenses, and development expenses will assume their proper position.

He added: Since development projects have imposed huge adjustments on development budgets, the commission has decided that henceforth development projects must be completed within the stipulated period.

Majdara discussed the nation's foreign exchange revenues and expenditures in the year 1374. He said: In view of the fact that 2.344 million barrels of oil valued at $15 will be exported daily, total revenues will reach $13.529 billion, of which $1.641 billion will be spent repaying commitments and $696 million will be spent importing oil products. This leaves $11.223 billion for the nation's foreign exchange expenses next year.

In conclusion, the member of the Plan and Budget Commission discussed the measures that have been taken to obtain foreign exchange from non-oil exports. He said: In previous years there were not large amounts of foreign exchange revenue coming into the country from non-oil exports, but for next year there are mechanisms in Note 29 that will quickly return non-oil revenues toward the nation's expenses and needs.

For example, exporters may register orders in accordance with the nation's needs, and using foreign exchange obtained through exports, they may import the goods needed by the country. In this way the foreign exchange and the profit will belong to them, and the nation's needs for imports will also be met.

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Pakistan

Leghari, Bhutto Condemn Serb Act of 'Barbarity'

BK2905132795 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto have expressed shock and grief over the killing of Bosnian Foreign Minister Irfan Ljubijankic at the hands of rebel Serbs. In their separate messages to the president and prime minister of Bosnia, they strongly condemned this act of barbarity.

Bhutto Claims 'Complete Political Stability'

BK2505153095 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 25 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has declared that there is complete political stability in the country and democratic institutions are working smoothly. Performing the ground-breaking ceremony of tanneries pollution control project in Kasur today, she said due to the political stability Pakistan has achieved an honorable place in the community of nations. There are some differences because of present accountability process which is going to continue against those involved in misuse of national wealth. She said there is no room for traitors in the country. Those who have been raising slogans of Sindhu Desh [land of the Sindhis] and Pakhtoonistan [land of the Pashtuns] have passed away with their missions. She said the government is undertaking a number of projects for pollution-free environment.

Referring to the sectarianism, the prime minister said the government respects every section but would not allow anybody to play with the feelings of others. She lauded the services of Milli Yakjehti Council [National Integration Council] for promoting religious harmony and brotherhood. Referring to the local problems, the prime minister announced to provide Sui gas to Kasur city before the next elections. Thirty-six villages have already been electrified, while 45 more villages will be electrified in the district this year. Seventeen digital telephone exchanges are being set up and 47 roads have been constructed in the area.

Earlier, the Punjab chief minister, Mian Manzoor Ahmad Wattoo, in his address said that the provincial government has funded 90 million rupees for the tanneries project besides allotting the land. The Kasur Tanneries Pollution Control Project — first of its kind in the Third World — includes 18-km channel. The project will be completed in two and half years at a cost of about 300 million rupees. Radio Pakistan's representative says on completion the project will help reclaim a vast area of land affected by waste water of 300 tanneries.

Later, the prime minister performed ground-breaking ceremony of the building of Institute of Nursing and Health Sciences at Shaykh Zayyid Medical Complex in Lahore. Speaking at the ceremony, she said her government is attaching due importance to the social sectors by increasing allocations for health, population welfare, and other fields. Ms. Benazir Bhutto also laid the foundation stone of Zainabiya Trust Hospital Complex extension on Multan road. Speaking on the occasion, she appreciated services being rendered by trust to the people of the adjoining areas. She announced a donation of 1 million rupees for the complex.

Referring to the Kashmir issue, the prime minister said the whole nation is united on this issue, which expressed its indignation against the incident of Charar Sharif on Friday {19 May] last. She said except a handful of people, the entire nation expressed solidarity with the Kashmiri freedom fighters on her call. The prime minister condemned the Indian action in Charar Sharif, saying such tactics will never demoralize the Kashmiri freedom movement.

Bhutto Views National Issues, Pressler Amendment

BK2805162095 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto says the people of occupied Kashmir are pitted against tyrannical forces, following in the great tradition set by Hazrat Imam Hussain [second son of Hazrat Ali, the fourth caliph of Islam], may God be pleased with him, against the usurpers at Karbala [place where Imam Hussain was martyred and buried]. She was addressing a conference on Imam Hussain in Islamabad this morning as a prelude to the advent of the Muslim festival of Muharram. She said the Indian usurpers in occupied Kashmir are trying to deprive the Kashmiris of their rights, but with their blood the Kashmiri people are keeping up the glorious tradition of Hazrat Imam Hussain, may God be pleased with him. She said the people of Pakistan will continue to extend their moral, diplomatic, and political support to their Kashmiri brethren. [passage omitted]

Earlier, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir, said in his address that complete national unity is essential to face the challenges in Kashmir, Palestine, and Bosnia-Herzegovina. He said there is complete national consensus on the Kashmir issue. The Kashmiri leaders, in their Mecca Declaration, rejected the so-called elections in occupied Kashmir.

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The conference adopted the Islamabad Declaration, underlining the importance of unity among the world's Muslims and calling upon all religious figures to promote understanding and conciliation. It calls upon religious scholars and intellectuals to ensure protection of religious places and to cooperate with the government in eliminating sectarianism and foreign agents.

The conference was also addressed by Makhdum Mohammad Sajjad Hussain Qureshi and religious scholars belonging to various schools of thought.

Talking to reporters later, the prime minister emphatically stated that the government is not contemplating any amendment to the blasphemy law but will only improve certain procedures in its application. She said the government is ready to hold negotiations with religious parties on this issue because it wants to ensure that no false cases are registered against anyone under this law. She said Pakistan has a democratic system and everyone is free to hold peaceful protests to express their views. That is why the government did not interfere with the strike observed yesterday in response to a call by the National Integration Council. She said the Pakistani people have the highest respect and regard for the holy Prophet, peace be upon him, and the government wants others living in this country to show the same respect for the holy Prophet, peace be upon him, and this law. At the same time, we do not want weaker sections of society to be targeted, because Islam gives the message of justice and amity to mankind.

Referring to the situation in Karachi, the prime minister said that the paramilitary forces will stay there as long as they are needed to help the civil administration. She said the people of Karachi have started to support government measures because they realize that the government wants to eliminate terrorism and create peace. The prime minister declared that the government will not compromise with those who are playing with the lives of innocent citizens. She said she has asked a particular party in Karachi to give up the path of terrorism and join mainstream politics. She said a foreign country has provided rocket launchers to a party in Karachi to create turmoil. Ms. Benazir Bhutto said our fight is against violence, sectarianism, militancy, narcotics, and arms. She said that the Army was withdrawn from Karachi according to the demand of that party and a muhajir [Indian immigrant] governor was appointed. She regretted that this party has yet to give any positive response to these measures. She said the people of Karachi want peace and development and her government has launched several schemes under the package she announced in this respect.

The prime minister said her government will hold local body elections soon.

On the appointment of a governor in the Punjab, she said she is holding consultations with her colleagues in this respect. She said she is not in a hurry because the coalition government is working smoothly and there is stability in the province.

On the price rise, the prime minister said the main cause is the weak fiscal policies pursued by the previous government. During the three-year rule of that government, inflationary pressures increased and huge amounts of loans were given. The present government has taken steps to reduce the budget deficit and cut government expenses.

On relations with the opposition, Benazir Bhutto said that there is total consensus on all important national issues, including Kashmir policy, the nuclear program, privatization, and the process of accountability.

Answering a question about the modification of the Pressler Amendment, the prime minister said it is a moral victory for Pakistan because its principled position has been acknowledged. She said the erosion process of the Pressler Amendment has begun and it is hoped that the Pressler Amendment will be abolished in the next two years. She said U.S. economic and military aid to Pakistan has remained suspended under the Pressler Amendment, but these restrictions are now being revoked. The United States has accepted Pakistan's stand on the nuclear issue and has started to understand the need to adopt an equitable policy and attitude toward all countries.

Foreign Minister Hails Policies on U.S. Ties

BK2705084895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has said that the process of legislation in the U.S. Congress on the revival of economic assistance to Pakistan and other issues is a major success of Pakistan's foreign policy. During an interview in Islamabad, he said this positive change, seven weeks after Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's visit to the United States, reflects her successful diplomacy. The foreign minister said the present government's balanced policies have created sufficient cordiality in ties with the United States, and U.S. investments worth billions of dollars are being made in Pakistan. Referring to the resolutions being adopted by congressional committees, the foreign minister said Pakistan's stand on the Pressler Amendment and other South Asian regional issues has been acknowledged.

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Sri Lanka

Reportage on Recent Clashes, Government Reaction

Troops Confront 'Terrorists'

BK2805124095 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 28 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The operational headquarters of the Ministry of Defense reported that troops confronted a group of terrorists at Ananthakulam in the jungles north of Weli Oya yesterday. According to the dispatch, ground troops confirmed 10 terrorists killed, including an area leader and the deputy leader. During the fire fight, five soldiers were injured and taken to hospital. Terrorists have also damaged telecommunication tower at Vavuniya by placing explosives at the base of the tower. The incident occurred a couple of hours after midnight.

Meanwhile, the terrorists launched a major attack today on an Army camp in the Batticaloa District. A military spokesman said the terrorists attacked the Taravikulam Army camp located in the thick jungles in the Batticaloa District.

Rebels Destroy Camp, Kill 25

BK2805084295 Hong Kong AFP in English 0833 GMT 28 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, May 28 (AFP) — Tamil Tiger guerrillas decimated an army camp in eastern Sri Lanka Sunday [28 May], killing at least 25 soldiers and losing an unspecified number of their own men, defence sources here said.

A large group of fighters from the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) pounded the Tharavikulam army camp located deep inside the Thoppigaloa jungles, triggering a major firefight, the sources said.

"We know from LTTE radio (communication) intercepts that they have killed at least 25 soldiers. The fighting is still going on with troop reinforcements on its way to the area," a defence source said.

He said soldiers from nearby camps were on their way to assist the besieged troops at the Tharavikulam camp, which had been a staging post for anti-LTTE operations inside the dense Thoppigala jungles.

Military spokesman Sarath Munasinghe confirmed that a fierce battle was raging in Tharavikulam but said he was still awaiting details of casualties.

The LTTE assault came a few hours hours after troops shot dead 10 rebels in northeast Weli Oya during a heavy exchange of fire that also left five soldiers wounded, Munasinghe said.

He said two of the LTTE men killed by them had been identified as key leaders in the area.

As the fighting escalated in the eastern region, the LTTE blasted a telecommunication tower inside the government-held northern town of Vavuniya, cutting off the region from the rest of the island.

The renewed bloodletting came hot on the heels of a massacre of 42 Sinhalese civilians and the assassination of a top Buddhist monk. The killings carried out Friday were blamed on the LTTE.

There has been no reaction from the LTTE to the upsurge in violence but a rebel statement received here from its London office accused the government of violating human rights.

"The Sri Lanka government has committed gross violations of human rights and continues to openly flout the humanitarian law of armed conflict," the two-page LTTE statement said.

However, the LTTE statement made no reference to the civilian massacres blamed on them.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), in a rare press communique, expressed shock and "strongly condemned" the slaughter, the worst against the majority Sinhalese community since fighting resumed on April 19.

The LTTE statement said the government attacked "unarmed Tamil civilians" in addition to imposing a "food blockade" on the east while further tightening an existing economic ban on LTTE-held areas in the north.

The rebels said no publicity was given to the the human rights violations of the government because Colombo did not allow foreign correspondents to travel to the embattled regions.

"The result is that false propaganda peddled by the Sri Lankan government is made freely available to the international media and news of the gross human rights violations by the Sri Lankan government do not reach the international community," the LTTE said.

A three-month old truce collapsed in April with the LTTE renewing its separatist campaign. Since then 303 security personnel and some 255 LTTE cadres have been killed in renewed fighting, according to military estimates.

The LTTE is leading a protracted campaign to establish an independent homeland called Eelam in the island's

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northeast, and more than 30,000 people have been killed since the separatist struggle was launched 23 years ago.

President Vows 'To Hit Back Hard'

BK2805121595 Hong Kong AFP in English 1140 GMT 28 May 95

[Report by Amal Jayasinghe]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, May 28 (AFP) — Sri Lanka President Chandrika Kumaratunga on Sunday [28 May] vowed to hit back hard at Tamil guerrillas after the rebels attacked another army camp, leaving at least 55 soldiers dead or missing.

Kumaratunga said her government had not yet begun a war against the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) which overran a military camp in the island's east Sunday adding to the military setbacks.

Defence sources said that army reinforcements were able to link up with the beseiged troops at the Tharavikulam camp where only 125 out of a strength of 180 were accounted for after a massive pre-dawn raid by the LTTE.

"We have now made contact with the troops at the camp and evacuated four soldiers wounded in the battle. Most soldiers seemed to have withdrawn in small groups and are now slowly returning," a military spokesman here said.

A defence source said LTTE radio transmissions earlier in the day showed that at least 25 soldiers had been killed at the camp located deep in the Thoppigala jungle where the rebels are known to operate bases.

Kumaratunga, who addressed reporters at the inauguration of the island's first ever National Information Centre, made no reference to the latest fighting but said her government had not yet begun a war against the LTTE.

"We are still on a defensive role, carrying out limited operations. We have still not begun the war. But when we do, it will be done as effectively as we have in other things and with all seriousness," she said.

She said the military was being given "coherent" leadership to fight the LTTE and said there had been confusing and conflicting signals to an internally divided army under the previous regime.

"As responsible media, cooperate if not with the government, with the national effort to end this terrible war and bring about a lasting peace. If not people will begin to be indifferent to the press," she told reporters.

Kumaratunga initiated a peace drive with the LTTE last year but the rebels pulled out of talks on April 19 to resume their separatist campaign. Since then 303 troopers and some 255 LTTE cadres have been killed.

Kumaratunga also confirmed that the LTTE had acquired micro-light aircraft in 1992 under the United National Party regime, and blamed local press for disclosing positions of anti-aircraft guns in the capital Colombo.

"We have definite information from British and French authorities that the LTTE got aircraft in knocked-down form in 1992," she said. Press reports from India had said that the LTTE had bought six micro-lights in France.

The LTTE's aquisition of air power, and its downing of two military transport planes late last month has seriously affected the military's campaign against the rebels, who have the upper hand in the current fighting.

The latest Tiger assault against the Tharavikulam army came as troops further north at Weli Oya killed 10 rebels, the military spokesman said.

He said five soldiers were wounded during a heavy exchange of fire and claimed that two of the rebels killed were top LTTE area commanders.

The Tigers also blasted a telecommunications tower in the northern town of Vavuniya.

The upsurge in bloodletting came hot on the heels of a massacre of 42 Sinhalese civilians and the assassination of a Buddhist monk also in the island's multi-ethnic east.

A rebel statement received here from the LTTE's London office on Sunday accused the government of shelling civilian areas and violating human rights.

Troops Raid Hideout, Kill 18 Rebels

BK2905140995 Hong Kong AFP in English 1342 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, May 29 (AFP) — The Sri Lankan military Monday [29 May] claimed killing at least 18 Tamil Tiger guerrillas, including a senior rebel leader, during an attack on a jungle hideout.

The defence ministry gave 18 names and said they were gunned down in the northeastern Weli Oya region during a raid on a base of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) over the weekend.

"During this attack 18 LTTE cadres were killed, including Asuran. He was the LTTE military leader for (the districts of) Mullaitivu and Weli Oya," the ministry statement said.

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Earlier, the military had given LTTE casualties as 10 killed and said five government soldiers were also wounded in the confrontation, which came as the rebels decimated an army camp further to the south, killing 22 troopers.

The army has claimed killing 21 rebels in the Tharavikulam army camp attack.

Meanwhile, the army searched the office of a mayor in eastern Sri Lanka Monday as part of tight security in the coastal region where the LTTE had escalated attacks against troops and civilians, officials said.

The cordon-and-search was conducted at Batticaloa mayor Thelliyan Perinpanayakan's office, located within a high security zone of Batticaloa, officials said.

Perinpanayakan said that police and soldiers went through cupboards and shelves in his office. The military authorities had told him that the search was done to ensure his own security.

Since the LTTE pulled out of peace talks and resumed their separatist war on April 19, the military said it has lost 303 men and claimed killing 285 rebels while another 75 civilians have also died in fighting.

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